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BLAZER

JJC doubles parking fines on main campus

by Brian Delaney

Rumors are starting to circulate around school that parking fines at JJC have increased. I've got news for you: it's not a rumor. As of January 1st, the increase in parking fines have been put into effect by the Board of Trustees. This is good news for JJC, since this will help generate some extra revenue. On the contrary, this is bad news for all of those who violate traffic laws by parking their cars wherever possible, (i.e. fire lanes, disabled parking spots, and the all too popular sod-style parking maneuver).

Currently, all normal parking violations have been raised from \$5 to \$10.

Leaving a vehicle in a disabled parking lane without proper authorization has now been increased to \$150. Fire Hydrant and other lane violations are \$25, and after 15 days the fine is increased to \$50. Visitor parking violations are now \$20, and if it is not paid after 15 days, then it becomes \$40.

If after 15 days following the issuance of any ticket, a notice will be sent stating that the student will have their grades withheld and registration for the following semester will be denied until the payment is received. If the issue is not resolved within 30 days,



Steven Boe writes multiple tickets for this vehicle, illegally parked in a handicap spot

Photo by Brian Delaney

a mandatory appearance will be necessary at the Will County Circuit Court for prosecution.

If ticketed, it is the responsibility of the violator to present the citation and fine in person or by mail to the J-building Payment Center no later than 15 days after being fined. It is possible to attempt to appeal a parking citation. However, the appeal must take

place before the 15-day deadline.

During the first couple weeks, the campus police are a little more lenient when it comes to minor parking violations. Due to the limited amount of spaces, finding a legal parking spot is difficult. Most of the time, parking becomes more available about four weeks into the semester. It is very easy for a new student or visitor to acciden-

tally park where they should not, and the police department is very understanding when it comes to that. However, do not think you can get away with leaving your car in a handicap spot and then hope for a pardon.

Generally those in violation are in no immediate danger of having their car towed. According to JJC Police Chief Peter Comanda, as long as the car isn't obstructing traffic or left in the parking lot for an excessive amount of time, towing isn't necessary.

In April 2002, members on the LEMAP (Lean Executive Management Assistant Program) committee decided that the parking fine situation needed to be addressed.

According to Dr. Alan Hardersen, the Vice President of Student Services, the issue regarding parking fines remained unresolved for about 10 years, and over time students began to disregard the laws and pay the affordable five-dollar fine.

LEMAP advised that either parking fines should increase, or they should just be thrown out. Subsequently, it was agreed upon that fines should be increased.

Hopefully, these increases will serve as an influence to make students and faculty to park in authorized areas only.

JJC rediscovers values of Martin Luther King

by Jessica Harvey

JJC kept the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. alive when the Office of Student Activities sponsored a three-day affair celebrating the life of a man who sent a message of peace, non-violence and solidarity to all of America.

The event, entitled "Rediscovering Lost Values," included an array of events that ranged from traditional West African dancing to a traveling trunk exhibit that showed video footage of speeches given by Dr. King.

"With all the things that have been going on in the world today, post-9-11, and with the talk of war, I think Dr. King's message of peace and love is more prevalent now than it has been, and I think it's something that we should celebrate and honor all the time," said Anasta Jones, Director of Student Activities.

"Discover Through Dance" lacked off the MLK celebration on Wednesday, Jan. 22. Members of the NAJWA Dance Corps performed traditional dances from West Africa on the middle of the bridge.

The dance group is based in Chicago and their Artistic Director, NaJWA, is a choreographer and dance historian who has performed with great musicians, such as Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

The four dancers and four musicians were dressed in beautiful costumes, which were decorated with shells and bright-colored fabric. With energy, grace and force, they brought West African traditions to life with dances of celebration, marriage, life and death.

"These dances came out of times where there were a lot of hardships, not that there's not hardships now, but these dances usually mean something. They come from some set of values," said Jones.

The next day panelists addressed issues such as community, family and



NAJWA Dance Corps performs traditional West African dances during the Martin Luther King Celebration Week

Photo by Adam Faroux

racism during "Discovery Through Discussion." Panelists included faculty member, Edward Senu-Oke. Members of the Black Student Union helped to bring in members of the community, such as pastor Eugene Fears from Redeem C.O.G.I.C. and Louise Ray from the Forest Park community center.

"Too often we go home and watch TV over dinner instead of sitting down at a table and actually having a discussion about how the day was and actually trying to get to know one another and learn what your kids are doing," Jones said. "So, the 'Discovery Through Discussion' piece was an opportunity to talk about these lost values."

The week's events ended when students heard from keynote speaker, Mary Mitchell, who is an editorial board member and columnist from the Chicago Sun Times.

Mitchell addressed topics such as racial violence, self-responsibility and family values. She continually encouraged the young people in the audience to go out and make a difference. She emphasized the fact that many great humanitarians, such as Dr.

King were very young when they started the crusades against injustice.

Mitchell left that if people evaluated their own lives and tried to improve themselves, then they would be better suited to help others.

"We need to be encouraging ourselves, so that we can get to the place that we need to be to enjoy and fulfill King's legacy," Mitchell said.

Mitchell has been the recipient of

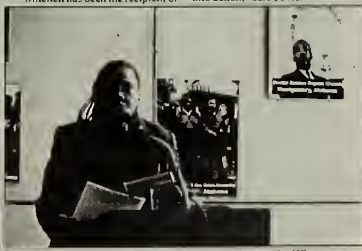
numerous journalism awards, including the Award of Excellence from the National Association of Black Journalists and the Studs Terkel Award from the Chicago Media Workshop. Oftentimes, her columns deal with issues such as racial attitudes, abuse of women and her own personal experiences.

There was a very positive student response from the event held throughout the week. Christine Gruber appreciated the fact that her teachers, Dr. Roy Fahali and Andy Neill, actually encouraged their students to attend events such as these. Neill even let his students out of class early so they could hear Mitchell speak.

"The more open-minded our school's students are, the more they will get out of the college experience," said Gruber.

King's anti-violence message will also be heard when OSA co-sponsors a peace rally that is to be held on March 12 at noon on the bridge.

"Hopefully somebody saw or heard something this week that would provoke them or motivate them to get into action," said Jones.



Keynote speaker Mary Mitchell, Sun Times columnist, addresses the JJC community during the MLK Convocation Friday, Jan. 24

Photo by Jessica Harvey

January 29, 2003

Blazer View

Carry King's message throughout the year, not for just one day

Monday, Jan. 20 was the holiday of Martin Luther King's birthday. It has been 74 years since his birth, but his message is still being heard loud and clear.

King fought to end segregation and racism, but always with non-violent ways. He demonstrated this by the Montgomery Bus Boycott in the mid-1950s, the Selma protests in 1965 and his eloquent, unforgettable "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington D.C. in 1963.

Though his life ended tragically by an assassin's bullet in 1968, King is still remembered today as not only a symbol of the civil rights movement, but as a symbol of high moral leadership and equality among people of all races, religions and creeds.

The Office of Student Activities sponsored a three-day event entitled

"Rediscovering Lost Values." Traditional West African dances, discussions about family values and a speech by prominent journalist Mary McBeth were just some of the events that took place. These activities provided students with the opportunity to hear from many different perspectives and learn how to live more peaceful lives with their peers.

However, this event only took place three days out of the entire year. People need to make a conscious decision to fight injustice and promote equality on a daily basis.

Many people feel hopeless when it comes to making big changes in our world. They often times question their ability to make an impact on society on a larger scale. People need to realize that they can impact the world around them; all they need to do is try.

If you have free time, take that opportunity to donate time to a charity that you consider to be beneficial. One organization created to fight injustice is the Anti-Racist Action organization. This is an international organization that was created to stop racism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of bigotry. You can contact the Chicago chapter of this organization at (312) 409-1432 or visit their website at <http://www.a-one.org>.

One of the biggest injustices of inequality is not just the promoters of a stratified society, but those who stay silent when they see wrongs being committed.

When people are feeling like they can't make an impact on the world, they just need to look to Dr. King as an example that one person can make all of the difference in the world.



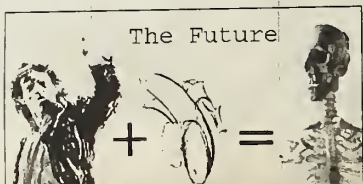
Future expectations for 2003 and beyond--let the future begin

By Matt Furlane

When you want to know the future, a variety of sources are available for a peek on what might be. They can range from the mysterious Nostradamus, hockey tele-oracles or pay-per-minute psychic helplines to "just pay me now" palm readers. So, to help meet the demand and expand the market, I'll throw a sound out onto the ice and make a few predictions at no cost (donations? oh, what hopes, or dreams (or nightmares) may come).

POLITICS

Pakistan and India will be the first countries to engage in nuclear warfare. Osama bin Laden will resurface after Hussein is ousted by March and launch another attack on a western port by July. Ross W. Wade will fall. George Bush Jr. will be re-elected by a landslide.



Death comes in the form of a demented business for Mick Jagger

Artwork by Christy Kozol

slide in 2004. The first woman vice president will be in 2008. The first Mexican American president will be in 2012. North and South Korea will reunite by 2014. China will be the next super power by 2016 and directly chal-

lenge the U.S.

RELIGION

Despite efforts by law abiding Muslims, the Islamic faith will continue to be seen as a religion that breeds terrorists for at least another decade. Creationism, with help from biology, will trump Darwin. In 2006 the Catholic Church, after spending a billion dollars on lawsuits, will make marriage mandatory for priests. By 2007, Materialism will become the dominant world religion with Las Vegas as its Mecca and shopping malls as mosques. Leading governments all over the world to pass laws declaring poetry, church hymns and theatre subversive. Jesus Christ will not return in 2010.

TECHNOLOGY/HEALTH

Attempts at human cloning will continue unabated until major defects, like premature death and immune sys-

tem deficiencies, bring on major lawsuits. After 2004, frustrated Democrats will elect John F. Kennedy and Harry Truman. Cell phones will become "the all-purpose device. By 2006 up to 25% of Americans will die a food-related death. McDonalds, struggling to survive, will serve only organically grown food by 2007. Bill Gates' son will take over Microsoft and bundle Kazaa with WindowsXP 2008.

Fruit will be genetically engineered to provide cures for diabetes, cancer and AIDS by 2009. Terminator factories aside, thinking machines will be welcomed everywhere. Nanotechnology will revolutionize everything. In 2012 the Japanese, having invented the first robot army will come to our defense against China.

ENTERTAINMENT

Paul Newman will win best supporting actor and Lord of the Rings will win best picture plus four other Academy Awards. The Hulk and the Matrix will blow away T3 and Star Wars. Titanic will remain the all-time box office leader.

People will begin to pillage on the Sims Online, which will lead to Will Wright to strike a deal with EverQuest to maintain order. PS3 will have an IQ of 147. Mick Jagger will choke on a banana and die. Jazz, unplugged and techno remixes will usher in a new music era. Live 365.com and WeAmp.com will become the top radio stations in the world.

ABC, NBC and CBS will be re-

placed by HBO, FX and CNN. James Gandolfini will be nominated for president. In 2040 people will look back on the Simpsons and wonder what was wrong with us.

ODDS/ENDS

The SUV "arms race" will continue to escalate with the release of the 6-ton 5-mile per gallon 2004 Hummer 3. Scooters sales will sky rocket. Universities will abolish all traces of liberal arts from their curriculums and offer only business and sports info classes. Students seeking a "traditional" education will be laughed off campus. It will be discovered that Christopher Marlowe co-authored several Shakespeare plays.

Some Boomers will mark their entry into retirement age by smoking marijuana for medicinal use and protesting outside of nursing homes. Your grandparents, after blowing their retirement money at the casino, will move in with your parents.

In 2009, male crime rates will explode as a generation of boys raised on Grand Theft Auto and Doom come of age. In 2010 African Americans, tired of being slint out of sports ownership positions, will start their own professional leagues, causing the NFL and the NBA to go bankrupt. Tito Ortiz will school Mike Tyson on how to fight. Tony Stewart will win it again.

The Steelers will win the Super Bowl next year. The Bears will not. Hockey, wrestling and soccer will be the come the new big three.

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January 29, 2003

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Blagojevich takes control of Illinois

By Rosalind Lewis

On Jan. 13, the state of Illinois witnessed the inauguration of Rod Blagojevich as the new governor. After taking the oath of office, Blagojevich addressed the citizens of Illinois.

"My goal as governor is as simple as it is profound—to create a future as great as our past, a state as grand as our potential and a government as good as our people," he said.

He went on to talk about the challenges that the nation is currently facing and the local challenges he has inherited from the past administration.

Some of his key concerns include the sluggish economy, the health care system and the \$5 billion dollar deficit in the state's budget.

He also cited, "rising tuition costs that make the dream of college unattainable for too many families."

Blagojevich announced plans to trim the current budget of unnecessary costs and to reject "the politics of mediocrity and corruption."

He discussed the need for greater accountability from the state for the



Newly-elected Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich.

Photo courtesy of <http://www.illinois.gov/gallery/>

way that taxpayer dollars are being spent, and promised to consolidate or eliminate unnecessary positions and boards within the state government.

"As we grapple with a budget crisis, as we clean house and rewrite ethics laws, as we work to create jobs and improve our schools, just know that we bring the change you voted for, you

will be our inspiration and our guide," he said.

The new governor was raised on the northwest side of Chicago and has served in a number of other political offices, including as Cook County Assistant State's Attorney and Congressman from Illinois' Fifth District, where he was elected in 1992.

He has earned public service awards from the American Library Association, Friends of Libraries USA and the White House Conference of Libraries for his work to replace outdated library books in Illinois public schools.

He also aided in the establishment of the National Teachers Academy in Illinois, created to raise the standards of education in Illinois. Education remains an issue close to his heart.

"You voted for a change. I intend to deliver it," said Blagojevich. "It is time for a new beginning. Let that time begin right now."

Who wants to be a D.O.R.K.?

Checkin' out the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship organization

By Adam Fox

Maybe you have seen students and faculty wearing those navy blue and Kelly green shirts that say, "Be a D.O.R.K." If not, where have you been hiding?

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship has been a club for students and faculty for 11 years. Bridget Henkel's reason for attending InterVarsity is to reach students who don't know Christ.

D.O.R.K. stands for Disciples of the Righteous King. The theme for study this semester is Discipleship.

"Our main focus of this shirt is to show people what we are all about," Henkel said, "and to know that we are disciples, and there is only one righteous king and he is awesome."

"God is just an important part of our lives, and without Him we are nothing," Henkel said.

So where can you find these ser-

vants of Jesus Christ? They have daily meetings at noon in the cafeteria to pray. Also, they have a weekly Bible study in the cafeteria on Tuesdays at 2 pm. Not one to attend class or even grace JJC with your presence? Well, they also have a weekly get together in the Centennial Commons Clubhouse on Thursday evenings from 8:30 to around 10.

Jill Roebuck also had to comment on what she thought it meant to be a D.O.R.K.

"Being a D.O.R.K. is a bold statement," Roebuck said, "being a Disciple of the Righteous King is my goal and that is what I strive for."

If you would like to find out more about InterVarsity Christian Fellowship they will have a table on the bridge for open discussion on the topic: "Life, Love, and Spirituality." Also you can find out more by going online at www.jcc.edu/clubs/ivcf/

If you have a club and would like it to be featured in the flyer, see our contact information on page 2.

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Students put on thinking caps

By David Ashby

The JJC College Bowl team won the South Suburban Region's Fall Tournament on Dec. 13, 2002, beating out Moraine Valley Community College and Prairie State College in a double elimination series of matches.

Called the "variety sport of the mind," the College Bowl team competes in tournaments across Illinois and the Midwest, testing their academic knowledge and recall against other participating schools.

In the first match of the tournament, Prairie State College beat out Moraine Valley Community College.

However, JJC moved ahead to beat both of these teams in the next two matches. In the fourth match Prairie State won to force a playoff with JJC.

With both teams at 2-1, JJC was able to defeat Prairie State, with a nail-biting close score of 110-95 to win the title.

The JJC College Bowl team consists of Captain John Evans, Steve Hall, Michelle Lorenzen and Brad Schaller. They are led by English professor William Yarrow, who has coached the team since 1995.

There are a number of reasons why the students choose to compete. The intensity of competition, the chance to meet other students across Illinois and the chance to work their minds in creative ways are some of the biggest reasons.

"I've always had a brain full of useless trivia, so why not put it to good use," said team captain Evans. Yarrow said that it is definitely for fun.

"It is a sport, yet it is a mental sport so, it is similar to why you would participate in any kind of sport," Yarrow said.

All of the community colleges in Illinois are clustered together into six regions, each of which held synchronized matches on Dec. 13. Though the tournaments were in different places, the questions were all the same.

Another tournament will be held in March, and if JJC wins at this tournament as well, the team will be declared South Suburban Region champion and will have a chance to travel to the state championship and compete against the winners of the other five regions in Illinois.

In the past, JJC has always done well at the state championship. Though they did not go last year, they did go the past four years. They even took home the first place trophy three of those years. If they win this year, each team member will get \$300 in prize money.

The questions that are asked at the tournament relate to a community college curriculum, with an almost infinite number of topics, including music, biology and current events.

"It's like being on a game show," said Schaller.

QUESTION OF THE ISSUE:

What are your views on the possibility of the U.S. going to war with Iraq?



Maurice Henley

"I don't think we should go to war. We should solve our problems by talking about them."



Nick Puddicombe

"As long as the U.N. condones the war, sure!"



Chaz Sago

"The U.S. has fought Iraq before and beat them. If they are willing to risk another war, they must have something out there that we don't know about."



Molly Sutton

"I don't want to think about it."



Christie Gruber

"I think that the U.S. and the U.N. should take a step back and look at the damages that war could cause and then make an informed decision."



Christopher Knight

"I think our motives need to be clear and pray that President Bush is seeking God's council."

Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey

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Aries- If your mind is a potato, you have to decide if it is baked or smashed.



Taurus- Don't be distressed by your catfish stealing your John Deere... the mob will get him.



Gemini- If the bra fits, wear it.



Cancer- Spam will become your best friend, lucky you!



Leo- OK honey, get the fork- you're done!



Virgo- Get out that speedo, you stud! Polar Bear swimming is in your future.



Libra- You will find a magical cow that will make all of your childhood fantasies come true.



Scorpio- You will fall in love with the kid who pickshis nose in class. Just watch out for what he puts in your dinner.



Sagittarius- Watch the spoon. It's hypnotic, isn't it?



Capricorn- Be bold, bring back spandex and work your stuff!



Aquarius- You realize why all the kids on the playground laugh at you when your mom tells you that you were fathered by a goat. HA HA!



Pisces- James Brown says, "You feel good, touch yourself!"

Tastes, Words & Sounds



David Wilner tickles the ivories at *Tastes, Words, and Sounds*.

Photo by Adam Facus

By Sabrina DiRenzo

Lit candles, soothing music, good friends and an open mic were just some of the many elements at the annual *Taste, Words and Sounds*. The event was held on Wednesday, Jan. 15, and was presented by the Office of Student Activities (OSA).

The presenters of the events conduct surveys to see what students would enjoy seeing and being a part of. The number one response of what students want to see on campus is almost always music. Because many consider the coffee house setting the "hip" place to be, JJC thought it would be good to bring that into the school environment to attract more participants.

The main performer was David Wilner, a man who definitely knows what it feels like to be on stage. He was originally in a band called Blind Man's Bluff from July 1996 through February 2002, and when they broke up, he decided to go solo and tour on his own to show off his talent.

He recently recorded his first solo album last September and released it in November. Wednesday night was his first solo appearance, and he says he likes to play the college scene since it is a great way to get your name out into the public.

He uses real-life experiences for his writing and shows how they can be related to the universal themes in everyday life.

He said his favorite part of performing is the audience's reaction and how he can share his songs and move them with his performance. He feels

so lucky to be able to do something he loves so much.

Accompanying Wilner was a group of girls, Anna Schlafer, Andrea Pearce and Michelle Hannant. They are "David Wilner groupies," if you may. They are seriously passionate about his music, and they show it by singing along, bobbing their heads and dancing along with the beat. It was so refreshing to see how good music and good friends could really make a good night.

"I respect him as an artist. He has a lot of talent," said Schlafer.

Wilner was not the only performer that evening. Drew Duzinkas went on for a good 10 to 15 minutes on a rambling story about himself and a goat playing wiffle golf. On occasion he would include how old ladies would stare at him and shake their heads. He also had an interesting take on Burger King and how you can triple your cholesterol for 98 cents.

In all fairness, Duzinkas really showed the concept of an open mic night just by going up on stage with nothing prepared and letting it "flow." He showed that you don't have to be perfect with what you do, just as long as you have a good time doing it.

Wilner showed the other side of it of the open mic concept, by showing that there is a way to get yourself out into the public eye.

They both made the "coffee house" vibe come alive. So next time you see a flyer about OSA putting on an open mic night or another coffee house event, give it a try. You might see or hear something you'll like.

News Briefs

Campus Police: The Rape Aggravators Defense Systems will be holding a 12-hour course in self-defense tactics to prevent sexual assault. The class is open to women ages 16 and over. Classes are offered on four consecutive Thursdays for four hours each class. Classes are on Feb. 6, 13 and 20, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. There is a one time fee of \$25 per person. Classes are limited to 10 people per class. For more information or to make reservations for a class call 280-2234 and ask for Officer Joe Sikora or CSA Jennifer Ingoyen.

Nursing Student Association: The Nursing Student Association will sponsor a blood drive on Monday, Feb. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the bridge.

Office of Student Activities: Mainstreet "The Odyssey" will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 29 and Thursday, Jan. 30, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the C-G Concourse.

Peers Promoting Wellness: Peers Promoting Wellness will hold Sexual Responsibility Week from Monday, Feb. 3, thru Friday, Feb. 7 on the bridge.

Phi Rho Phi: Phi Rho Phi will hold an open book performance on Friday, Jan. 31, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the theatre.

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Powerful 'Willie Lynch' comes to JJC

By David Ashby

It Mark Williams and his theater troupe, the Cultural Messengers, brought their talent to JJC on January 23 to perform the Willie Lynch Letter, a show based on a letter written by a wealthy plantation owner from the West Indies in 1712.

The performance, which was presented by Project Achieve, was held in accordance with other events held throughout the week of January 21 to commemorate the anniversary of Martin Luther King.

With jazz music throughout, the Willie Lynch Letter proved to be an absorbing and bizarre mix of song, dance and drama.

The biggest highlight of the show was Williams, who, disguised as the original Willie Lynch, read the entire letter to the audience in the most sneaky voice.

Through his manner on stage was creepy, the most disturbing part of the performance were the words of the letter itself. It explains in cold detail about a "fool proof method of controlling" black slaves. Some elements include how to turn slaves against one another and why it is bad to read their "stock" by hanging.

Other memorable moments include the beautiful singing of Inetta Visor, who sang numerous songs, and Cynthia Maddox, who made many short speeches in between the singing and dancing parts.

In her first speech, she passionately yelled, "It's time for us to wake up black



Williams as the creepy and sinister Willie Lynch.

Photo by David Ashby

America."

The purpose of the performance was not only to entertain but, also, to educate. After the show, the Cultural Messengers clustered together on stage to have a question and answer session with the audience.

Numerous topics were discussed, including racism, current events and the importance of community and family.

They also stressed the importance of learning from the horrors of the past to prevent people from repeating those same mistakes in the future.

Visor summed up the entire purpose of the performance perfectly by saying, "I believe that people will perish without knowledge."

Williams created the Cultural Messengers in the late 1960s for the purpose of spreading knowledge and education.

JJC was the first stop on their 2003 Lynch Tour. They plan to continue to spread their message to other schools, as well as penal institutions.

'About Schmidt' about perfect

Nicholson's new film bursting with emotion



Jack Nicholson will make you want to 'Schmidt' your pants in this new flick.

By Andrew Hrabec

Jack Nicholson stars as Warren Schmidt in this touching story about moving forward in life. After retiring from an insurance company that he dedicated all of his time to, he finds himself analyzing whether or not he

has lead a successful life. He questions if his career and family life were all that he had hoped they could have been.

His daughter, whom he has little relationship with, is set to marry a man that he disapproves of, thus setting up a road trip to try to stop the wedding that leads to a re-evaluation of his life along the way.

I enjoyed this movie from start to finish, it had it all. There was plenty of comedy in the film that had me screaming with laughter. Schmidt's pen pal Schagen did too. About Schmidt what Wilson the volleyball did for *Forrest Gump*. And because this movie is intended to be a drama, there were a lot of moments when I needed to subtly wipe a tear from my cheek.

Unfortunately, a lot of people are under the impression that this movie is for an older audience, and that may be true, but don't let that stop you from going to see it. And just in case you were unaware, Nicholson won a Golden Globe for his performance as Schmidt.



Members of Cultural Messengers pose for a photo with Professor Net-Die.

Photo by David Ashby

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Lady Wolves not giving up



Members of the Lady Wolves battle.

Photo by Adam Farcus

By Megan Gilman

After a rough first half of the season, the Lady Wolves came back to defeat Wright College 61-51 on Thursday, Jan. 23 in Joliet.

Earlier in the season, the teams met in a battle that resulted in a loss for JJC. In that game, the Rams out rebounded the Wolves, 52-33, and shot 70 percent from the free-throw line. One of the Wolves' top players, Kelly Pero, fouled out with 12 minutes still left on the clock. The final score was 59-79.

When the teams met again, the Wolves were full of passion to win. Once again, both Pero and Candace Robinson stepped up and played great games.

Pero scored a team high of 24 points and had four assists. She cur-

rently has a total of 287 points, 104 assists, 64 rebounds and 49 steals. Robinson scored 16 points and had 13 rebounds. She also recorded her third straight double-double, making a total of 15 for the season.

"I thought Kelly did a great job of attacking the basket tonight," said Head Coach Tony Giese. "Candace really battled down low for every rebound, and she definitely won the war in the post."

Alison Wilder and Jody Byers, who both transferred to JJC from Glen Oaks Community College in Michigan, also contributed to the win. Wilder scored six points, while Byers scored nine.

Although the Lady Wolves' next two games are at home and the momentum is definitely favoring them, their NAC record is still 0-4. Hopefully they will be able to change the record as they once again face the College of DuPage on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 1 p.m. in Joliet.

The last time the two teams met, the Wolves lost 44-68. The Chaparrals have a record of 11-4 overall, while the Wolves have a record of 7-14.

Their guard, Nikisha Shaw, really stands out. She has 269 points, 31 assists, 178 rebounds and 63 steals for the season.

The game looks to be very exciting, especially with two great point guards like Pero and Shaw to watch.

Men's basketball ranked 6th in NJCAA



Oscar Mahlios intimidates an opponent. Photo by Adam Farcus

By Megan Gilman

As of Jan. 21, the JJC men's basketball team was ranked sixth in the NJCAA league. The team is currently 18-4 overall and is constantly making progress. The Wolves' grueling schedule seems to have had no effect on them at all, since they have won six of their last seven games. They have already survived four tournaments and eight consecutive road games.

On Jan. 23, the Wolves played Robert Morris College for the second time this season. The first time the

teams met, JJC walked away victorious with a 99-72 win. The first half was slow for the Wolves, but with ten minutes left in the half they had a 36-17 run.

The Wolves proved again that they were a force to be reckoned with on Jan. 23 when they defeated Robert Morris College, 95-85. With the win they continue a perfect home record of 10-0.

Leading the Wolves were Gordon Morgan and Michal Vavrek. Morgan scored a team high of 20 points and had five assists. Vavrek scored 19 points and had 12 rebounds.

"I really thought Michal played just awesome for us tonight," said Head Coach Joe Kuhn. "Gordon had an off-night as far as shooting goes, but he still turned in decent numbers for us."

Also contributing to the win was Chris Wesley. He recorded 13 points against the Eagles.

The Wolves hope to continue their winning ways when they face defending NJCAA Division III National

Champions, College of DuPage, in Joliet on Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. The last time these two teams met, JJC recorded its first regular season win of 72-67 in Glen Ellyn.

When asked how he feels about his team's success Kuhn replied, "Being 18-4 is great, but we are focused on achieving a lot more than that this season." Maybe JJC will celebrate two national championships this year.



Earl Hughes goes up for a dunk.

Photo by Adam Farcus

 ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE


Eddie Small

Sophomore forward Eddie Small has helped lead the men's basketball team to a 18-4 record this season. He currently has a total of 98 points, 16 assists and 52 rebounds. Small, a graduate of Ronteville High School, is the second highest scorer and has the second most rebounds on the team. "Gordon (Morgan) and Eddie always give us a solid effort, which just makes us that much better," said Coach Kuhn.



Gordon Morgan

Gordon Morgan, a sophomore guard, has helped push the men's basketball team into a ranking of sixth in the NJCAA Division III this season. He currently has a total of 103 points, 13 assists, 19 rebounds and 10 steals. Morgan, a graduate of Kokomo High School in Indiana, was also chosen as a NJCAA Preseason First Team All-American. He is proving to be a great asset to JJC's winning men's basketball team.

By Megan Gilman

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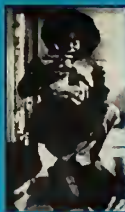
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Comanda takes command of JJC police department

by Brian Delancy

On Dec. 16, 2002, Peter Comanda of New Lenox was sworn in as the new police chief for the JJC police department. Chief Comanda's title also includes being the director of campus safety and security. He has filled the position left open by former Chief Steven Bennett, who left in April of 2002. Commander Melvin Comelius was the acting chief from April to December.

Currently, Comanda is working on an extensive reconstruction plan for the department. Primarily, there are three major issues that all need equal attention, including manpower, equipment and space.

When asked his opinion on issuing firearms to the campus police, Comanda commented that in order to perform all levels of police work, firearms are necessary. He also stated that it is good that the police are currently conditioned to act in dangerous conditions without a weapon, but sometimes a situation can arise where a firearm is needed.

Although some argue that adding guns to a school environment is wrong, the issue at hand is about arming police officers, not security guards. The campus police are state certified and go through the same training that Joliet police officers go through.

Before becoming JJC's police chief, Comanda served for 25 years on



Chief Peter Comanda is ready to enforce the law at JJC. Look out!

Photo by Brian Delancy

the Country Club Hills police department until his retirement in 2000. Comanda said becoming a police officer appealed to him, because of his desire to help people in need. In the late

1970s, Comanda applied at five area police stations before accepting the job at Country Club Hills.

Starting off as a patrolman in 1977, Comanda quickly worked his

way through the ranks, joining the detectives unit in 1983. In 1992, Comanda was promoted to sergeant, and was made acting chief in 1993, then lieutenant in 1994. Peter Comanda said he enjoyed his time being a policeman there due to the smaller size of the department, which allowed for a wide variety of work. During his service to Country Club Hills, he received the very prestigious Cook County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Medal of Honor for outstanding services and professionalism.

Previous to his police service, Comanda originally had an interest in animal biology. In fact, he raises snakes for a hobby and even loaned a few to the Veterinary Department here at JJC.

Comanda has had a well-rounded educational experience. As a result of his parents' careers taking them to many cities, he managed to go to junior high in Italy and attend high school in New Jersey and North Carolina. He completed his college education at Trinity Christian College and Calumet College, receiving a degree in law enforcement administration. Comanda also attended the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command.

He said he is proud to be part of the JJC community.

"I enjoyed the welcome here by the staff and students," he said. "This is a good department considering what we have to work with."

Sexual responsibility: the focus of a week's events at JJC

By Margaret Boehle

Sexual Responsibility Week, sponsored by Peers Promoting Wellness (PPW) and Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, and Friends (GLBAF), showcased a series of events during the week of Feb. 3-7 to educate the student body about current issues involving sex.

The week opened with Deborah Niemann-Boehle, who spoke to the students about internet safety. She recommended keeping all personal information secure from others online. She also says that if you are looking for love online, it would be best to join a group with which you have an interest (i.e., gardening or Anime, etc.) rather than a generic "looking for love" group.

"Everyone uses the internet," said Pam Dilday, adviser for PPW. "And protecting yourself is a very important issue."

On Tuesday, students were given the chance to partake in the Relationship Game. Those who participated



Participants get to know their partners in The Relationship Game.

Photo by Adam Farcus

had a great time. With two friends back-to-back, five questions were asked.

The contestants would answer for themselves as well as their partner, and when the answers were given, many were amused to see how few gave the correct answer.

Wednesday's Sex-Line Talk Show generated the largest turnout of the week, with around 20 to 30 students sitting in the audience and many others hanging around for a few minutes between classes.

Answers were given by a panel made up of JJC faculty members Dr. Roy Falahi, Kate Lopez-Gilmore and Dr. Edward Sena-Oke, as well as two employees of the Will County Health Department (WCHD), Roxanna Fagua and Ivan Harris.

The talk show brought about some very interesting questions, especially with its active audience.

Topics discussed included condoms, situations which might lead to sex (and staying out of them), sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), pap smears, Magic Johnson's sex life, the morning after pill, prevention programs at the Will County Health Department, human sexuality courses and when and how to explain all of this to children.

On Tuesday, the Leadership Session on Diversity was given by Anissa Jones, the director of student activities.

The discussion included different ways to be more accepting of diversity. Like greeting everyone you meet, participating in different clubs, becoming educated about other cultures and noting the reality of discrimination.

"I think that hate breeds hate and violence breeds violence," said student Jade Phillips.

Friday's speaker, Lisa Tonna, the director of advocacy and legislative affairs at Horizons, a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) outreach program, focused on discriminatory violence against the LGBT community.

Tonna focused most on the root of the problem: unequal legal rights. Tonna says that if we establish laws against gay marriage, it will lead to discrimination.

Also, she said that homophobia and heterosexism are the invention and therefore the responsibility - of non-LGBT people.

Dilday, the coordinator of student activities/holistic wellness, hopes that the events of the week will "increase awareness in a topic that affects everyone."

She added, "The topics we selected were a combination of requests from Gay, Straight Alliance and PPW and other students."



Deborah Niemann-Boehle discusses internet dating.

Photo by Adam Farcus



Anissa Jones addresses students during the Leadership Session on Diversity.

Photo by Adam Farcus

Blazer View

Despite Columbia disaster, space exploration must continue

On the morning of Feb. 1, an immense tragedy hit the United States and the world. While re-entering the Earth's atmosphere, the Columbia space shuttle and its crew of seven astronauts (six Americans and one Israeli) perished in the atmosphere as the spacecraft disintegrated into a giant fireball.

Since then, NASA has come under extensive scrutiny by the government and the media, and though the future of spaceflight seems in question, it is in the opinion of this newspaper that space exploration must continue. However, before another astronaut is launched into the cosmos, NASA needs to re-evaluate its priorities and its purpose.

With the end of the Cold War and less public support, space exploration has taken a backseat in public policy in the past 20 to 30 years. NASA had its heyday in the 1960s as the United States successfully won the "space race" against the Soviet Union by landing men on the moon first.

However, since then the only space programs that NASA has really put much time and effort in has been the Skylab program in the 1970s, the space shuttle program in the 1980s and 1990s, and just recently in the completion of an international space station.

Some people would say that space exploration has no purpose and that it is just a waste of time and money. However, both of these thoughts are wrong. Without space exploration, we would not be able to use cell phones or satellite dishes.

Without space exploration, we would not have made so many advances in so many sciences, including meteorology, biology, chemistry and physics, among many others. And with advancements in these fields, space exploration has opened doors for more job opportunities for people.

Finally, without space exploration, we would not be able to achieve the seemingly impossible.

For example, landing a man on the moon had been a merely a dream

among civilizations for centuries. However, that dream became a reality in 1969, when Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men in history to walk on the moon.

Space exploration is more than just sending rockets into space. It is a means for wonder, excitement and hope.

Just the thought of walking on a distant planet sends awe and astonishment through most people's bodies. This is the most important reason for space exploration to continue: to achieve the seemingly impossible and advance man's state in the universe. However, before any of this takes place, NASA (and our country for that matter) needs to sit down and re-evaluate its priorities and its purpose. Between 1981 and 2003, 113 shuttle launches have been conducted.

But the question that this newspaper asks is why has NASA only focused their time and money on the shuttle program when they could have been focusing on more noteworthy programs,

like a return to the Moon or a manned expedition to Mars.

Certainly money plays a big role in NASA's budget, and government funds towards America's space organizations has declined in recent years.

However, our entire country needs reflect on the purpose of our space program. We need to identify why we have these space programs and what goals do we wish to accomplish by them.

In this newspaper's opinion, our country could be doing so much more with NASA, and to continue to accomplish the impossible and go where no men have gone before, we must hold NASA and our space missions in a higher light.



The face that had to look on from the members of the space shuttle's crew.

Number one threat to women's safety is not something to ignore

By Jessica Harvey

It's the crime with the least number of convictions, oftentimes not reported and even considered acceptable to some people; yet, it affects everyone at some point in their life.

Domestic violence is the number one health threat to women in the United States.

The American Medical Association estimates that over four million women are victims of severe assaults by boyfriends and husbands each year and about one in four women will be abused by a partner in her lifetime, according to a 1993 Bureau of Justice Statistics.

There is also a common misconception that physical violence is most likely committed by a stranger. However, this is completely untrue.

About 76 percent of women over the age of 18 who reported being raped and/or physically assaulted were victimized by a current or former husband, cohabitating partner, date or boyfriend, according to a 1998 Bureau of Justice report.

With these startling statistics, you may wonder why the woman stays in a position where her life and possibly her children's lives are in danger. The answer to this question is not having a simple answer.

The most prevalent reason why

women stay in abusive relationships is fear. According to the FBI, up to 40 percent of female homicides in any given year occur when the woman decides to leave an abusive relationship. If a woman plans to leave an abuser, a safety plan should be prepared before leaving.

Lack of resources is another reason why victims of abuse are afraid to leave. Oftentimes abusers are controlling, so the victim lacks a support system. Therefore, she is left without family or friends, and she becomes financially and psychologically dependent on the abuser.

While some people may understand that domestic abuse is emotionally taxing for the victims and their families, they may not realize the financial burden that these terrible acts cause.

According to a 1992 American Medical Association report, family violence costs the nation from \$3 to \$10 billion annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters and foster care, sick leave, absenteeism and non-productivity.

There are some people who believe that domestic abuse is somewhat trivial and not a very serious crime, but these people couldn't be more wrong. According to a 1998 U.S. Department of Justice report on Data on Crimes

by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends and Girlfriends, 31,260 women were murdered by an intimate from 1976-1996.

And according to the FBI, in 1996, among all female murder victims in the U.S., 30 percent were slain by their husbands or boyfriends.

Now that you know that domestic abuse is a common, serious and often unreported crime, you may be wondering what you can do to help assist victims of this crime.

If this is an issue that is important to you and if you want to make a difference, there are many shelters and organizations where you can volunteer your time or make a donation.

The Guardian Angel Home of Joliet offers many valuable services to victims of

abuse. It provides a safe and temporary shelter for abused women and their children, a sexual assault service center, foster care providers and children and youth enrichment programs. For further information about the Guardian Angel Home, please call 729-0930.

A good information resource is the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence. You can visit their website at <http://www.icadv.org/> and if you or someone you know needs help, the national domestic violence hotline is 1-800-799-3224. Also, a list of Illinois area shelters can be found at <http://www.ape.state.il.us/programs/violenceagainstwomen/progcounty.pdf>.

If you know people who may be in abusive relationships, let them know that you are there for care and support. And if they want professional help, provide them with information on shelters and charities that can help them leave their abusers.

Remember that ignorance only helps fuel the problems at hand, and you won't accomplish anything by pretending that these tragedies don't exist.



Help out a friend if they are abused.

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QUESTION OF THE ISSUE:

WHAT IS YOUR *BIGGEST* FEAR?



Amada Rosas

"My biggest fear is public speaking and giving critiques."



Apis Nikrodhanond

"George W. Bush!"



Meaghan Quinlan

"I'm scared of being stuck at JUCO for the rest of my life."



Dan Price

"Being embarrassed in front of a lot of people."



Mike Gallo

"Our government becoming too corrupt."



Brendan Conway

"I'm afraid of Slipknot."

Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey

Dynamic daycare at JJC E.C.C.

By Maricela Paramo



A drawing by Ben Farcus, youngster

The Joliet Junior College's Early Childhood Center has been a program offered by the college since 1901 when JJC was initiated as a community college. It is a program primarily for students, both full and part-time. Though, when enrollment is low, the center also accepts children from the community. The purpose is to provide learning opportunities and supervision while the parents attend school.

During daycare, the children interact with other children. Some of the activities that are provided include lessons that teach the children about writing, science, math and music. They are taught in both small and large groups.

The children are also allowed free playtime, a lunch and a time for napping. Lunch, which is prepared by the college cafeteria, is cooked to meet the nutritional needs of a child. For safety purposes, the doors remain locked and during each visit to the center, the parents must sign their child in and out.

In order to register a child for daycare, the child must be between three and five years of age, and the parents must be able to provide an immunization record. Also, the child must attend at least two hours for two times per week. The fee for registration is \$20 per family during each semester. Other fees include \$3 for every hour the child attends or a \$21 maximum charge per day. If the child attends during lunchtime, there is a \$2 charge per day, but this fee can be waived if the child qualifies.

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JJC artists take home awards



Artist Adam Farcus's award-winning 3D work, *Over-Glorified Object*.

Art and culinary arts students among recognized

by Gertjan Garvan

Joliet Junior College students in the art department and culinary arts program came away with big wins this past month.

Twenty-one art students from Joliet Junior College submitted their artwork to the Illinois Community College Juried Art Exhibition of 2003. This exhibition is a competition open to art students enrolled at community colleges across Illinois.

This year, the show consisted of 74 pieces of art from ten Illinois colleges. The artwork is on display and open to the public at the LRC Gallery of Kankakee Community College from Feb. 3 through Feb. 21.

The juror of this year's exhibition was James Butler, distinguished pro-

fessor of the School of Art at Illinois State University. Butler's work is included in more than 160 public collections, including the Chicago Art Institute and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

The juror's critique and award presentation will be held at the closing reception in the LRC Gallery on Feb. 21, at 1 p.m. Congratulations are in order for Erika Konopack, whose untitled painting won best of the show and a merit award. Other JJC students who won merit awards were Stephen Danne, Adam Farcus and Allison Macer.

JJC art students weren't the only winners this month. Culinary art students also won awards at an ice-sculpting competition at the Zehnders Snowfest 2003, in Frankfort, Michigan, held Jan. 30 through Feb. 2.

There were 16 two-person teams representing schools from such places as Mexico, Colorado and Rhode Island, as well as students from the Art Institute of Chicago and our own Joliet Junior College.

Kevin Hinks of JJC took home two Bronze medals for his realistic sculptures of a Heron on ice and of a Puppy on a Dock.

Hinks and Vince Butti worked as a team to create a Buddha and won overall fourth place.

Tia Willis and Brad Elston worked together to create an abstract sculpture. This sculpture, along with their swans and female figure reaching for a star provided them with the points to place an overall sixth place.

JJC takes another shot at the referendum

By David Ashby

The JJC Board of Trustees decided on Tuesday, Jan. 21, to place a referendum on the April 1 ballot that would ask voters to approve a two-cent tax increase in the operations and maintenance fund. If passed, the added two million per year that will be generated will be used to update and repair JJC's 30-year-old infrastructure, which is aging and losing its effectiveness.

According to Seaver Tarulis, the director of the Physical Plant, the costs for repairing and updating the existing infrastructure costs about \$2.5 million a year. However, the Physical Plant also has a backlog of \$30 million of repairs that need to be taken care of as soon as possible.

"We are maxed out," said Tarulis. "We need to address the problem now."

If the 2-cent increase is passed, the backlog of money will be wiped out in around 15 years, and the Physical Plant will be able to keep pace with repairs and maintenance that need to be done, says Tarulis.

The referendum will also help



Will it be construction time again at JJC in the near future? Photo by Adam Farcus

form a program of preventive maintenance by help existing components of the infrastructure last longer and run more efficiently.

Some of the major structures of JJC that need to be repaired and updated include the heating systems, plumbing systems, cooling systems, roofs, windows and the power system.

"We clearly have a need," said Theresa O'Neill, vice president of busi-

ness services. If passed, the annual tax impact will be around \$6.67 a year for the owner of a \$100,000 home and around \$10 for the owner of a \$150,000 home.

However, many obstacles may stand in the way of the approval of the referendum. Some of the concerns among the college's administration and the Board of Trustees include the poor economy, the possible war with Iraq and the other schools around the area that may place their own referendums on the April 1 ballot.

This same referendum, along with another that asked voters for a \$252 million for additions and renovations to the college, was originally placed on the November ballot last year. However, both were shot down by voters.

According to O'Neill, the Board of Trustees is currently deciding if they will place the referendum asking for \$252 million on the March 2004 ballot.

Brown Bag presents 'Cooking for a Vegetarian Diet'



This chef digs veggies

Artwork by Judy-Harp-Prunty

By Gertjan Garvan

"Keep Cooking," were Chef Frederick Ferrara's parting words as he finished his recent presentation on "Cooking for a Vegetarian Diet." A part of the noon-hour Brown Bag Lecture Series, Ferrara's presentation began with describing some of the different types of vegetarianism and why people chose to become vegetarians.

Vegetarians are non-meat eaters. Some of the basic levels of vegetarianism include Vegans who eat plants only and no animal products or by-products and Ovo-lacto vegetarians who eat plants, dairy and eggs. The reasons people choose the vegetarian diet vary from it being part of a religious faith to simply a desire to eat healthier.

According to Ferrara, in this quest to eat healthier, it is important to not lose the essential amino acids that are found in protein from animal sources. Quinoa is a grain from Peru that has all these essential amino acids, but the other way for a vegetarian to obtain these essential amino acids is through combination cooking.

The popular combination cooking method combines grains and legumes at one meal each day.

Ferrara continued his presentation by showing over 15 types of legumes

or beans and an extensive variety of rice and grains. To keep these meals from becoming boring, one can simply add herbs, spices, flavored oils and vinegars, vegetables and/or peppers to make an exciting, flavorful meal. He also told the group about some places to find more recipes, and he recommended shops to find ingredients (such as the new Michael's in Naperville).

Ferrara also mentioned that he is working with the Students Epicurean Club to present an International Food Market during Spring Field Week, giving the public all an opportunity to try a variety of foods, including vegetarian dishes!

This presentation was the first of the Brown Bag Lecture Series this spring semester. There are six more coming up, and they all meet at the noon lunch hour, so eat your lunch while becoming informed on a wide range of topics.

City Center seeks new parking

By Margaret Boeche

The lot at 269 N. Chicago Street, currently set up as a restaurant named "Valerie's," has the possibility to become the new facility and staff parking lot at the JJC City Center Campus. The parking will also be beneficial to the City Center's on-site catering facility, which also has a ballroom for weddings and other activities. The additional parking - especially in downtown Joliet - can only help the business, the profits from which support the culinary arts program.

But building a new parking lot is more difficult than it may seem at first. Getting new parking in downtown Joliet is a very long process - just obtaining the land can take anywhere from three to six months. First, the college must negotiate terms with the

seller. The college must contact the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to get approval for the purchase, and then again for the final approval to acquire land. Community colleges cannot acquire land without approval from the ICCB.

Andy Milechik, the associate vice president for extended campuses, says that getting this land is "extremely crucial" to the future of the city center campus in downtown Joliet.

"Just like the main campus, we are experiencing growth," Milechik said.

Given that JJC's headcount has reached 12,904 as of Fall 2002, Milechik has due reason to feel the need for more parking. More students means the need for more faculty to teach them, and the 30 new parking spaces that 269 N. Chicago Street could provide the college could be invaluable.

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They're watching you

Security cameras to be installed at Centennial Commons housing

By Laurie Kauzlaric

Close circuit TV cameras are going to be installed in Centennial Commons, JIC's recently opened student apartment complex.

According to Century Campus Housing Management President, Jim Short, the cameras are going to be placed to find the people who are causing problems.

Century Campus Housing, the company that owns and runs Centennial Commons, is working with two companies to get the bid completed. The bid will then be taken to the JIC Foundation board for approval.

There are two different bids that the board can decide on. One is for 11 different cameras, and the other is for 16 cameras. These cameras will be focused on different parts of the property, says Dr. Alan Hardersen, vice president of student services.

"It is definitely an effort to prevent issues from happening," he said. Zandy Baker, director of Centennial Commons, was not available for comment.

comment

The location and date of where and when the cameras will be placed is still underdetermined. This issue will also be discussed at the JIC Foundation board meeting.

Other topics that will be covered at this meeting include the quantity, type of units and the storage of the actual monitoring-recording devices.

These cameras have been installed in five or six other residential properties owned by the Houston-based Century Corporation. In some cases, only one camera was installed, whereas in others, 60 to 70 cameras were installed in one location.

When asked if these cameras have helped to decrease problems, Short said that one camera won't generally decrease the problem, but the camera have assisted law enforcement in specific cases in Texas.

At Texas Southern University in Houston and University of Texas in Arlington, someone was using his or her vehicle to ram the security gates. Once the cameras were installed, the gate problem was resolved.

Although the cameras will not be able to necessarily prevent or eliminate actions, it will still have a positive impact, says Short.

Money may await you

By Jessica Harvey

Do you ever wonder about how to obtain financial aid for school, but you're really not sure where to go? Well, look no further.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the JIC main campus in rooms C-2015, C-2016, C-2017 and C-2019, the financial aid department will hold a free workshop to help prospective students, current students and parents complete the 2003-2004 Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms.

"At least half of our student population does apply for financial aid and about one third of the entire student population gets some sort of aid," said Jennifer Klobardner, director of financial aid.

The FAFSA is a very valuable and important tool for college students. It must be filed by any student who wishes to be considered for the federal financial-aid programs, which include federal work-study, Perkins and Stafford loans and other federal programs.

February is financial aid/admissions awareness month in Illinois, and it is the best time for college-bound or already enrolled students to submit the 2003-2004 FAFSA forms.

"We really push students to complete the financial aid process as early as possible," said Klobardner.

Oftentimes, students put off completing their FAFSA forms, and they don't meet the financial aid deadlines at the colleges that they are applying to.

If students look ahead and complete the FAFSA by March, they will meet the deadlines of their desired colleges.

This workshop provides students with the opportunity to fill out the FAFSA online. Klobardner assures students that filling out the FAFSA online is safe and secure, and it is much more efficient than sending it in by mail.

The electronic process takes about two to four weeks to process, while sending the FAFSA by mail takes about four to six weeks.

People attending the workshop are encouraged to bring completed or estimated 2002 tax information, student's driver's license and social security number, parents' social security numbers, records or untaxed income, current mortgage information for properties other than the family's principal residence and a calculator.

"We just want to make students aware that we are here, and also want them to be aware that whatever information they do give us is confidential," said Klobardner.

For further information visit www.fafsa.org or call the financial aid department at 280-2258.

Give peace a chance

By David Ashby

In accordance with the Office of Student Activities, various on-campus organizations have come together to present a day of reflection and activism through a peace rally scheduled for March 12 on the bridge from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The purpose of this gathering is to provide a platform to spread the message of peace, respect and love among students and the community. It will also serve to give the student body a chance to express their views about the current issues involving peace and war.

"I see this rally as a source of hope," said Andy Neill, biology professor and a planner for the event.

Those scheduled to speak at the rally include JIC history professor John

Lyons and artist/activist Sandy Costa. Also, scheduled to appear include members of the JIC Chamber Singers and D.J. Steve Naughton. There will also be a tie-dye shirt giveaway, food and an open mic.

On-campus organizations that are sponsoring the event include Action for Freedom, Anti-Racist Action, the Blazer, Food Not Bombs, Culture Klub, Peers Promoting Wellness, S.P.R.I.T.E. and the Student Government.



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News Briefs

Brown Bag Lecture Series: There will be a Brown Bag Lecture presented by Dr. Roya Falah at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays, March 6, at noon in room J-3006.

Campus Police: The Rape Aggressions Defense Systems will be holding a 12-hour course in self-defense tactics to prevent sexual assault. The class is open to women ages 16 and over. Classes are offered on four consecutive Thursdays for four hours each class. Classes are on March 6, 13 and 20, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. There is a one-time fee of \$25 per person. Classes are limited to 10 people per class. For more information, contact...

Culinary Arts: The Chef's table is open for lunch Monday through Thursday from 10:30 a.m. until 12:45 p.m. in room J-3004.

Early Childhood Center: There will be a "Family Fun Night" on Monday, February 24, from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Multicultural Transfer Center: On Tuesday, Feb. 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., representatives from Robert Morris College will be at the D. info desk, representatives from Benedictine University will be in the C-concourse and representatives from the University of St. Francis will be on the bridge.

Native American Club: The Native American Club along with the American Indian Center of Chicago will present the 7th annual Pow Wow on Saturday, March 8, from noon until 9 p.m. at JIC's main campus. There will be Native American crafts and food for sale. Admissions to this event is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children, students, children, and free for children under 18. For further information, or if you would like to volunteer at this event, please contact Fred Harris at 280-2566.

2003-2004 FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

Step 1: Complete the 2003-2004 Free Application for Federal Student Aid online or Renewal FAFSA (for students who have applied in previous year) by May 2003. The website is www.fafsa.edu. You may print a work copy from www.fafsa.edu/form/prepare.pdf to complete before entering it online.

Step 2: You must also complete the Renewal FAFSA requires a pin number assigned to you by the Department of Education. To request a pin number you can go to www.pin.ed.gov. Keep your pin number since it can be used to access your information.

Step 3: You must also complete the JIC admissions process in order for our office to complete the financial aid process. You can contact the admissions office at (815) 280-2231, in person in Room F-1005 or on the web at <http://www.jic.edu/forms/adm.html>.

Step 4: Investigate and apply for scholarships. JIC scholarships may be found at www.jic.edu/finaid/aid/Scholarships. See reverse side for other scholarship sites. Most scholarship deadline dates are before April 1, 2003.

Step 5: Complete the Financial Aid Standards of Progress quiz. The quiz for 2003-2004 will not be available online until Feb. 15. This quiz must be completed before financial aid is disbursed to you.

Step 6: Within two to four weeks, a Student Aid Report will be sent to you either by mail or by e-mail (SAIR or e-mail). You must print this out and bring it to the financial aid office. Contact the financial aid office immediately after you receive it. Please bring all documents used to fill out the FAFSA with you.

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Apr. 18	4:00pm
Apr. 19	10am-4pm

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Joliet Park District
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February 19, 2003

page 6

Gore galore in *Final Destination 2*

By David Ashby

Teenager Kim (A.J. Cook) has a vision of a deadly pile-up while driving with a small group of friends on the interstate. Terrified, she pulls her SUV over to the side of the road, and even though her image is gone, she believes that because she disrupted Death's plan for her and a group of other drivers, now Death will track them all down and finish the job. She teams up with Clear Rivers (Ali Larter, the sole survivor of the ill-fated *Flight 180* from the original movie) to trick certain doom and try to survive Death's plan.

The original *Final Destination*, released in 2000 and grossing a surprising \$50 million, made a surprise horror hit, and a definite candidate for a sequel. With a mostly new cast and crew, *Final Destination 2* uses the same imaginative formula as the original, with more wild and gruesome results. Though most people would just consider these two movies as just two more additions to the run-of-the-mill

teen slasher film genre, they certainly are not. *Final Destination* and its sequel fuel the horror and panache off all of our everyday fears (car accidents, house fires, plane crashes, etc.), rather than the ridiculous and overly absurd horror genre involving crazed psychos and oversexed teenagers.

In *Final Destination 2*, the terror is much more intense and the deaths are much more gruesome than the original. Director David R. Ellis and screenwriter J. Mackye Gruber definitely deserve a handshake for setting up some of the most freaky movie scenes in recent film history.

The opening shot of the highway pile-up and the scene in the dentist's office are among the most frightening because the terror is built up so slowly and effectively.

What's even better is that even though the deaths that the characters receive are so gory, they can still provoke a huge, nervous laugh.

This film is a definite must-see for all horror movie fans and all of those who like a good scare.

Mad at the world: sing the culling song

By Thomas Zilligen

Chuck Palahniuk is the man responsible for the book, and subsequently, the movie "Fight Club." Based on that fact alone, hordes of people will most likely run out and grab a copy of Palahniuk's newest book, "Lullaby," published by Doubleday.

This is the story of a journalist who is assigned to a story about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and finds an ancient African culling song, or lullaby, in a book of poems for children at the scene in most of the deaths.

The main character, Carl Streator, realizes that this song has the power to kill people when recited aloud or in one's head, and becomes a kind of unintentional serial killer.

Hate your boss? Unravel the song in your head. Can't stand the guy tailgating you on Jefferson Street? Sing the culling song.

This is exactly the kind of behavior Streator engages in until he finds that other people know about the cull-



Don't fall asleep like this bird! Read Lullaby!

innocent Wicca practitioner and Mona's eco-terrorist boyfriend, Oyster.

He joins forces with them (or so it seems) to eliminate the remaining copies of the book of poems from libraries and bookstores.

The idea of a new world where there is no sound above that of a whisper placed into Streator's head simply because the song could kill anyone. If you hear it, you're dead. Sticks and stones can break your bones, but words can actually kill you.

This is why the "family" of Streator, Helen, Mona and Oyster head out on their mission. No more books, no more culling song deaths (except for those that Streator inflicts). But each person has his or her own agenda for finding the poems, as it becomes apparent.

If you're a fan of "Fight Club," or of any other Palahniuk book, be sure to give Lullaby a read and drop me a line to let me know what you think of it: thomaszilligen@sf.francisc.edu



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Aries- Sometimes you feel like a nut (probably because you are).



Libra- Try to stay away from water because you're electric!



Taurus- Take Wesley Willis's advice and cut the mullet. No one wants to see that ugly rat's nest.



Scorpio- You're lucky you haven't been arrested for those dance moves. For the love of humanity, please stop!



Gemini- Mr. Rogers is your evil twin.



Sagittarius- Get quacky, kiss a duck!



Cancer- Yahoo! for you!



Capricorn- Try to find some water because you're on fire!



Leo- You will have a fourth and final chance at left-handed fish bending. Don't blow it, mister!



Aquarius- The answers to all problems will be found in Justin Timberlake's next single that will hit #1 in Chile.



Virgo- When someone asks "who cut the cheese?" refrain from answering yes. It's definitely not a compliment.



Pisces- When was the last time you did the hokey pokey? Maybe the time is now. Get down with your bad self!

Don't be 'bound' to the mainstream, make an 'exodus'



Andy Hunter

Exodus

By Rosalie Lewis



Andy Hunter

You may not have heard of Andy Hunter, but you've probably heard his music. His songs have been featured on the TV show *Alias*, as well as movie soundtracks such as *The Recruit* and *Ballistic: Ecks vs. Sever*. If it seems like there's an action theme going on, that's no coincidence. This is definitely music to get you moving. A combination of trance, rave and techno fill this album that could serve as a substitute for caffeine. If you can sleep through this, you're probably in a coma.

When I first heard *Exodus*, I thought I'd been transported from my room to a packed dance floor in some swanky British club where Moby, Paul Oakenfold, Crystal Method, Darude and the Chemical Brothers would go for inspiration. Which I suppose makes sense, since Andy Hunter hails from the U.K. and probably draws influences from at least a few of those artists, though his sound is distinctively original.

Pulsating, beat-heavy tracks like "Go," "Radiate" and "Sandstorm Calling" will leave you with an adrenaline rush that can only be beaten by skydiving at 3 a.m. If you need a minute to catch your breath, check out the soaring, ethereal landscapes of "Show" and "Translucent."

For an otherworldly experience, listen to "Angelic," an exquisitely haunting track. If you prefer songs with words, which are rather few and far between here, check out "Amazing," a

love song that lives up to its title. After over an hour of music to chill to, get ready to be hypnotized by the oddities of electronics in "Strange Dream."

And just before you get sucked into a nightmarish underworld undoubtedly inhabited by the likes of Tim Burton, Stephen King and Anne Rice, the spell will be broken by the industrial-flavored "Interestational," the last track on the album.

The only weak track on the album is a song called "The Wonders of," which starts out with promise, but gets ruined by a cheesy rap-style vocal that I could do without. The rest of the CD is nothing but energetic, inspirational and strangely infectious dance grooves.

Whether you're already a fan of rave/trance music, or you need a good CD to party and exercise to, or you just want a break from your usual music tastes and you're ready to experiment, you definitely need to check out *Exodus*.

If you're not sure whether you want to buy it but just want to get a feel for the sound, you can listen to the entire CD on Andy Hunter's website (wasn't that nice of him?) at www.andyhunter.com.

the mega-conglomerate corporations that have taken over the music industry.

Question of Honour is just one of these raw talents. Based out of Ottawa, the band has just finished work on their second album, *Bound*.

I was quite skeptical when I first received this album. I expected a gigantic mess of noise and clamor. However, these thoughts were put to rest when I inserted the CD in my stereo and played.

Each of the 10 songs on the album has its own unique feel to it.

For example, the song "Let's Be Friends" has a bluesy feel to it, while "Dream" follows a more solid, hard rock rhythm.

Yet, the best two songs are definitely the highly charged and poetic "Last Prisoner," and the pop-sounding "Teacher Is."

The band consists of brothers Hugh and David Wygmans, who play the guitar/vocals and drums, respectively, and Ken Pitchford, the bassist.

The music from each instrument blends together just perfectly, with a strong drumbeat, noteworthy guitar work and Wygmans high-pitched voice pushing the harmony along.

The trio is originally from Michigan, where they were the members of a hard rock band. Though they broke up, they soon united in 1998 to form their current band. They released their first album, *Campfire Jars*, in 2000.

If you are sick of the common mainstream music scene, you should give Question of Honour a try.

Bound is slated for release on Feb. 28, so make sure you pick up your copy as soon as possible.

Question of Honour

Bound

****1/2

By David Ashby

It is rare to find an independent rock band that can hold its own against

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Narc offers quality thrills



The *Narc* movie poster.

Film shows what crime drama is all about

By Andrew Hrubec

After a rookie police officer is killed while undercover, his former partner, Henry Oak (Ray Liotta), and a narcotics officer, Nick Tellis (Jason Patric), lead the investigation. While investigating the case, Tellis begins to unwind the ball of lies and hidden truths that lead to the question, was he murdered or set up?

If you're in the mood to see what crime drama is all about, then *Narc* is a must-see.

These days it's very rare to find a good thriller, but this one fits the bill. Most of the movies today are sug-

coated and filled with actors that a younger audience can relate to. Sure, you can throw Josh Hartnett into a movie and hope that a group of teenage hoppers will wander into the local theater on a Friday night to see it, but don't expect much for a plot.

Independent films such as *Narc* maintain a certain amount of dignity. They don't stoop to the levels of mainstream movies by throwing in popular actors and flashy effects to draw attention. Instead, they focus on a solid plot and quality actors.

They concentrate on detail, and by doing so, they produce a movie that is worthy of attention, even if its recognition is spread by word of mouth.

I was glued to the screen as I tried to figure out the reason for the young officer's death. Right when you think you might have it figured out, there's a twist to the story. The acting and the plot for the movie is simply outstanding.

This may not be the kind of movie that you take a date to, but it is one that you would go with a group of buddies to see. If you like gunfire and bloodshed, this movie is for you, my friend.



Are you talkin' to me?

Photos of the Issue



See that weird kid next to you? This was his ride to jail.



Milla Vanilli never looked this good!



Pom Diddy shows us the goods on Mainstreet.

Photos by Adam Farooq



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Gangs of New York, Minority Report among best of 2002



Leonardo DiCaprio leads a gang and his movie to the top of the box office

By: Matt Sheehan

Okay, here it goes. Here are my selections for the best and worst movies for the year 2002.

1.) **Gangs of New York**- Let's get it out of the way: This movie kicks major ass. Martin Scorsese is at his best



Audiences around the U.S. have become smitten with Schmidt

and Daniel Day-Lewis is one of most disturbing, foreboding, fantastically-acted characters in the history of motion pictures. Leonardo DiCaprio is fairly good as well. This is the cream of the 2002 crop!

2.) **Minority Report**- What can I NOT say. Spielberg and Cruise—for the first time. This was, hands-down, the best film of the summer. Spielberg directs damn near flawlessly and Samantha Morton and Colin Farrell are superior in supporting performances. Also, John Williams' score is tremendous and ILM's work on the special effects is spectacular.

3.) **Star Wars: Episode II- Attack of the**

Clones- Okay, say what you want about all the dialogue and the crappy love story, but the greatest film saga of all-time continues in the ultimate fashion.

There's more action to provide balance with all the dialogue, always great special-effects and the most ass-kicking fight sequence between the computer-generated Yoda and bad guy Count Dooku.

4.) **Catch Me If You Can**- Hey! Spielberg had two good films out—in the same year! *Catch Me* is wonderful and charming, as is Leonardo DiCaprio—who knew this kid could act? He doesn't just stand around looking pretty, reading his lines and screaming "I'm king of the world!"

He conveys emotion and becomes the character Tom Hanks, although a little weak, is great in the supporting role—and funny.

5.) **About Schmidt**- Jack Nicholson is superb, to say the least, in this film. It will make you laugh one moment and cry the next. I came out of that theater with tears streaming down my face and a completely new outlook and perspective on life.

Honorable Mention:

1.) **Spider-Man**- Although loaded with tons of little, near-unnoticeable filmmaking errors and a lame Kirsten Dunst, this film more or less lived up to the hype. Tobey Maguire is the ideal Peter Parker; therefore, he is the ideal Spider-Man. Also, J.K. Simmons is hilarious as the Daily Bugle editor J. Jonah Johnson.

2.) **The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers**- I frankly thought this was good, not great. Fellowship is about damn near close to a perfect movie that you can get, but this just didn't have the same feel. Here's why: In Fellowship, the dialogue is complex, sophisticated and sounds like it came straight from Tolkien's mouth. In Two Towers, the dialogue seemed a little too simple and banal for me. However, the battle sequences and special effects were great, and Andy Serkis gives the best

performance in the movie, and he deserves an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor.

Undercover Brother- This movie is hilarious and full of funny, senseless humor. Eddie Griffin is solid, Chris Kattan is equally funny and Denise Richards looked hot (most of the time), but Dave Chappelle stole the show as Conspiracy Theory Brother. This is the must-see comedy of the year!

And now for the worst. *Need I say more?* Read on!

1.) **Austin Powers in International Man of Mystery**- This film series jumped the shark 30 minutes into this despicable, entirely unfunny and disgusting continuation of the Mike Myers shagging spy saga. The cameos were cool, but why would they want to cameo in such a terrible movie?!

2.) **The Scorpion King**- The Rock

needs to start paying more attention to his scripts before signing the dotted line. Although the film had its moments—which were few and far between—this movie sucked.

3.) **Swept Away**- Okay, I did not see this Madonna-starring, Guy Ritchie-directed "film" (thank goodness!), but any movie that only makes \$600,000 dollars total at the box office is deserving of dishonor on my list. Next!

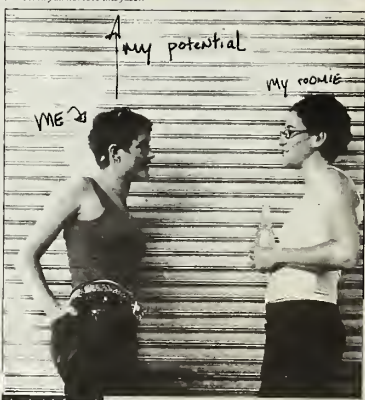
4.) **Men in Black 2**- Funny in some parts, but for the most part just another "Xerox sequel."

5.) **The Adventures of Pluto Nash**- Ah, c'mon! Do you really think I was going to leave this \$100 million-plus costing, penny-box-office-grossing film off my worst list, whether I saw it or not. Luckily, I saved my \$8 for a rainy day.

Visit Matt's Movies & TV at <http://geocities.com/mjs914je/>



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One letdown after another for da Bears

By Andrew Hrubec

Last season the Chicago Bears tricked everyone into believing that they were going to be a Super Bowl contender.

Fans were excited about the emergence of a stellar defense and a rookie running back that was supposed to be the cornerstone of the Bears offense. But the season that seemed too good to be true, was.

This year Bears fans were forced to sit back and watch the John Schoop show. His play-calling was as dreadfully conservative with a little-to-no-leeway for change.

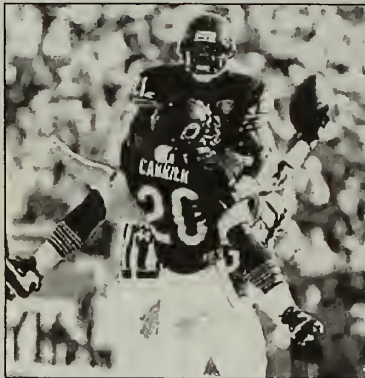
Arguments could be made that the Bears did poorly because of the injuries, but even before the injuries, the Bears lacked offensive talent.

The fact that the Bears did so poorly could be a blessing in disguise. Draft day will soon be approaching. Sure, the Bears could try and jump on a quarterback in the first round, but why? There are a lot of talented quarterbacks entering the draft this off-season.

If I were the Bears, I would look in the direction of defense in this draft. A defensive lineman or defensive back is the way I would go.

If the old motto, "defense wins championships" is true, why not add to an already strong defense. The Bears need to add speed and hands to the secondary.

The Bears also need to add speed,



The Bears in happier times.

Photo courtesy of www.sport.com/chicago-bears/

strength and youth to their defensive line.

I would give Anthony Thomas one more year to try and set things straight at the running back position.

Then I would look towards free agent quarterbacks or soon to be released quarterbacks like Kordell Stewart, Brian Griese and Jake

Plummer.

Drafting a quarterback in the second round could be a good move considering how much talent there is at that position in the draft.

But keep in mind where the Tampa Bay Buccaneers went with the number one ranked defense in all of football... Super Bowl XXXVII.

Superbowl XXXVII turns into Piratebowl

Buccaneers slaughter Oakland Raiders in true pirate fashion

By Andrew Hrubec

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers battled the Oakland Raiders in this year's Super Bowl.

Since I find that there was nothing *super* about it, I decided to proclaim this year's game as the Pirate Bowl.

And I even went as far as to imagine that they weren't playing for the Lombardi trophy, but instead they were battling over booty.

The game had all of the promise in the world. Oakland had the highest-ranked defense in the NFL, while Tampa Bay had the highest-rated offense.

It pinned Jon Gruden against his former employer.

With all the hype and expectations that were supposed to come with this game, we as fans were left with nothing to be excited about, with the exception of Shania Twain lip syncing in tight leathers.

We were expecting a game filled with hard hits, scoring and maybe even a few bad calls from officials to keep things interesting, but all we got was a one-sided game.

The Raiders scored first in the game with a field goal by place-kicker Sebastian Janikowski. But that was the last we heard from Oakland until the third quarter.

Tampa Bay then went on the attack as they scored the game's next 34 points.

The Raiders, a team that goes to the air more than United Airlines, was left grounded by the Buc's defense.

The Tampa Bay defense returned three of five interceptions for touchdowns, one of which came from Derrick Brooks, the NFL's defensive player



The Buccaneers used their heads while playing the Raiders.

Photo courtesy of superbowl.com

of the year.

As a result of their tenacious defense, the Raiders tallied a grand total of 19 rushing yards on 11 attempts.

There have been comparisons made between this year's Buccaneers and the 1985 Monsters of the Midway.

Both teams strived on defense and after seeing the results of this year's big game, it can be said that defense truly does win championships.

Will the Buccaneers be kings of the seven seas again next year? Only time will tell.



A Buccaneer in flight.

Photo courtesy of superbowl.com

Pro baseball tidbits return

By Adam Fox

This year's baseball off-season has been surprisingly quiet for free agents. Blame this if you must on our slumping economy, or the new luxury tax that Commissioner Bud Selig has implemented on every team's salary cap.

However, the off-season has been outrageously busy for trades. The Montreal Expos have placed a sign in front of the team saying, "Players for sale, acquire within," and nearly every team has tried to buy a piece of this once proud organization. And thus far, only the Chicago White Sox have bought into this fire sale.

But with spring training just around the corner, here are some of the major happenings so far.

"The evil empire (New York Yankees) extends its tentacles even into Latin America," said Larry Lucchino, president of the Boston Red Sox, after losing out to the Yankees on Cuban defector Jose Contreras.

Along with the signing of Contreras, the New York also snagged Japanese superstar outfielder Hideo "Godzilla" Matsui. Despite falling out of contention early in the playoffs last season, the "evil empire" will definitely be back with a vengeance.

Don Baylor could not do it, Bruce Kimm could not do it, so now the Chicago Cubs have brought in long-time San Francisco Giants coach Dusty Baker to try and do what his predecessors failed miserably at: to get the Cubs into the playoffs. He will try to lead this often-maligned group of men, and to shape them into a play off ready machine. Here are two words for Baker: *rood luck*.

The Cubs were not the only Chicago team to wheel and deal in the off-season. The White Sox made two trades to put them back into post-season contention.

The first was with the Oakland Athletics for premier closer Billy Koch. The second was with the Expos for starting pitcher Bartolo Colon. The only question the White Sox drew was that they had no pitching. Now with the starting combo of Mark Buehrle, Colon and fire-baller Koch to close games, I pray for the team that opposes the Sox.

While many teams were trying to conserve money this off-season, the Philadelphia Phillies came out of the starting blocks at a mad dash, and its first target was Cleveland Indian first baseman Jim Thome.

Once they signed him to an outrageous six-year \$90 million contract they moved on to third baseman David Bell. Sure they spent way too much money for two players who are at the end of their careers, but they are still building for the present. So expect an offensive eruption in Philly.

The National League East title has always gone through Atlanta. However, due to age and absorbed contracts, it might not.

Gone are the long-time names of Tom Glavine, Millwood, Mike Remlinger and even up-and-comers Damian Moss and Tim Lincecum. In their place are Mike Hampton, hoping to resurrect his career after a horrible stint in Colorado, Rusty Ortiz, and Paul Byrd. Definitely a drop off in talent.

So who will be going to the World Series. Well, only time will tell, so let's play ball and find out.

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Wolves baseball team ready to start season

New players, new team new hope for spring

By Adam Fox

Spring is a time where men of all ages, races and denominations turn their passions toward love, nature and baseball. Yes, baseball. This proud sport is known as America's pastime, where men take the field to prove to each other who is superior. This is no different at Joliet Junior College, where the Wolves, coached by Wayne King, cannot wait to start their upcoming season.

With nearly all their starters and

sophomores moving on to other places, this year's team is mostly made up of freshman.

"We're going to be young for the first part of the season and we will see how it goes after that," said King.

This year's team is relying heavily on its young pitchers, which include freshmen Brandon Tauer, Ben Boreis, Scott Kratz, and sophomores Chas Dobes and Keith Pfeifer. The team is also depending on veteran outfielders Robert Sullivan, Andy Kadak and Derek Suter, as well as veteran third baseman Ty Tomincas.

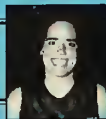
"The weakest position on the team is the inexperience," said King about

what he thinks is the team's weakest point. "When you are a two-year program, you can only be a freshman for about a couple weeks. If you are playing all the time in every game, well, you're not a freshman any more."

Last year the Wolves baseball team's record was 18-35 and they finished second in the North Central Community College conference. Also, four players won all-region player honors last season: pitcher Derek Clausen, third basemen Kevin Boyd, shortstop Mike Maher and outfielder Andrew Gallagher.

The Wolves' season begins on Saturday, March 8.

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE



Jody Byers

Sophomore forward Jody Byers has been working hard to help the Lady Wolves with their 11-17 record this season. Byers currently averages 7.6 points per game and has been helping the team with her accumulation of rebounds and assists. Byers transferred to JJC from Glen Oaks Community College in Michigan. Not only is Byers a great basketball player, but she also finds time to help out worthy causes as well. She ran in the Relay for Life and the March of Dimes. She is most definitely a player to keep your eyes on this season.



Michal Vavrek

Freshman forward Michal Vavrek was a key player in leading the men's basketball team to victory at the North Central Community College Conference (NCC) championship on Tuesday, Feb. 11. He scored 13 of his 17 points during an early 16-2 run in the first half, and he also grabbed 10 rebounds. As of Feb. 4 he is the second leading scorer this season and averages 12.2 points per game. Vavrek is from Bauska/Bystrica, Slovakia, and graduated from Highland High School in Indiana. Vavrek was also named to the All-Tournament Team earlier this year. He is most definitely turning out to be a valuable asset to the Wolves' basketball team.

Photos courtesy of the athletic department
Copy by Jessica Harvey



Candace Robinson solves the basket.
Photo by Adam Farcus

By Megan Gilman

With one more game to play in the season, the Lady Wolves finished their home schedule with a win against Triton College. With the win, the team improves to 11-17 overall and 2-5 in the North Central Community College Conference. The ladies have won three of their past five games.

With the mini-winning streak they have been experiencing, the Lady Wolves have been able to show the basketball community that they are a team of talented individuals.

The team's momentum seemed to turn around after the William Rainey Harper College game on Jan. 28, with the Lady Wolves pushing by the Hawks 69-64. The game was a huge upset be-

cause the Hawks were ranked number eight in the NJCAA Division III women's basketball poll.

In the game, Kelly Pero scored 25 points to go along with eight assists. Candace Robinson totaled 15 points, 13 rebounds and five assists. Danielle Mumm also played well for the team, scoring 12 points, grabbing 10 rebounds and dishing out four assists.

However, the winning ways of the Lady Wolves were stopped as they met the College of DuPage on Feb. 1. The Chaparrals are the defending NJCAA Division III National Champs and are currently ranked number one in the NJCAA Division III women's basketball poll.

Again, Pero and Robinson paved the way for the Wolves. Pero scored 24 points, grabbed nine rebounds and dished out six assists.

Robinson scored 14 points and grabbed 14 rebounds. However, the Lady Wolves fell 61-58 to the Chaparrals.

"Despite the outcome, I thought we played one of our best games of the season tonight," said head coach Tony Giese. "We are starting to get it together out there, and I think we are really starting to scare some teams that may take us for granted."

The ladies dropped another game on Feb. 4 to Rock Valley College. The team got off to a slow start and could not catch up. The Wolves fell 77-55 to

the Golden Eagles.

After the two losses, the ladies got back on the winning track with a 71-47 victory over Oakton Community College on Feb. 6.

The girls jumped out to a 20-point lead early in the game. Leading the way to the win were Pero and Robinson. Pero scored 22 points and dished out five assists. Robinson scored 19 points and grabbed 18 rebounds.

Then, the team won its last home game against Triton College on Feb. 11. Leading the way for the team were, again, Pero and Robinson. Pero scored 15 points, grabbed four rebounds and dished out four assists, while Robinson recorded her 20th consecutive double-double with 12 points and 14 rebounds.



Kelly Pero is taken 'it to the hoop'.
Photo by Adam Farcus

Men's Basketball Wins Community College Championship



David Wilky dunks like he's never dunked before.
Photo by Adam Farcus

Wolves are #1 in North Central Championship

By Megan Gilman

Despite a promising winning streak and the North Community College Conference Championship title,

the Wolves fell to Olive Harvey College on Feb. 15 by a score of 99-95. The team struggled to combat the 6-foot-7, 255-pound Fabian Watson, who scored 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Leading the Wolves were Eddie Small and Chris Wesby. Small scored 24 points, including 13 after halftime. Wesby pulled in 16 points for the team as well. As of Feb. 18 they held a 22-6 overall record.

Even with the Saturday night loss, the men's basketball team has still had a phenomenal season and to top it off, they have won the NCC Championship with an 84-75 defeat of Triton College on Feb. 11.

Leading the way for the wolves were Small and Gordon Morgan. Small scored 24 points against the Trojans, and grabbed 13 rebounds. Morgan scored 16 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

The team has been showing what they are made of all season long, and the Wolves are currently ranked number six in the NJCAA Division III poll.

The team won four of its last five games, which included an all out war against Prairie State College on Feb. 8.

In the game, the Pioneers had five technical fouls and two ejections.

"It got really ugly out there in the second half," said head coach Joe Kuhin. "It's really a shame to see things happen like that on the court, but I think our guys really fed off their antics."

Leading the way for the Wolves were Michal Vavrek and Wesby. Vavrek scored 25 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Wesby recorded 23 points and seized 10 rebounds against the Pioneers.

Though the Wolves defeated Rock Valley College with a whopping score of 102-83 in their first meeting on Jan. 14, the second time these two teams met, on Feb. 4, the score would be much closer. Still, JJC prevailed with a score of 79-70.

Leading the way for the Wolves was Small. He scored 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds.

Also playing well for the Wolves were Vavrek and Earl Hughes. Vavrek and Hughes both scored 12 points in the game.

The Wolves recorded their first home loss of the season on Feb. 1 against the College of DuPage. The

team fell 61-58.

The team lost several eight point leads in the last two minutes of the game and committed 25 turnovers in the game. Leading the way for the Wolves were Morgan and Vavrek. Morgan scored 19 points and recorded five steals.

Vavrek scored 17 points and grabbed nine rebounds in the loss.

The Wolves have played like a championship team and hope to continue that play into the playoffs, which will take place Friday, Feb. 28, and Saturday, Feb. 29.



Gordon Morgan defends JJC turf during a game against Harper College on Jan. 28.

Photo by Adam Farcus



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Traditions kept alive at Native American Pow Wow

Music, dance and craft all part of celebration

By Justin Johnson

Native American culture and tradition is alive and well at Joliet Junior College. The seventh annual Native American Pow Wow, sponsored by the Native American Club, was held on Saturday, March 8. The Pow Wow, which is a festival of the customs and celebrations of the Native American peoples, was designed to illustrate to public their way of life both in their beliefs and their traditions.

"They [Native Americans] still have a strong sense of their tradition and you can see tradition in the drums, dancing, singing, dress, crafts and mannerisms of the people at the Pow Wow," said Fred Harris, adviser for the Native American Club.

Besides browsing the authentic crafts and wares of the many vendors in attendance, visitors were able to see and be a part of some of the dancing and drum traditions of the different tribes represented. Incorporated into the dances was a tribute paid to the war veterans of past and upcoming wars. The Native American culture is the only culture that recognizes its veterans and elders in this fashion of song and dance. The overwhelming theme in the majority of the dances was that of unity and friendship.

"I enjoy coming to these Pow Wows to see my friends and to fellowship with them in song and dance," said Tom Johnson, one of the participating dancers.

Larry Lockwood, who has been participating in JJC's Pow Wow for the



A participant at the Native American Pow Wow dances up a storm in the gymnasium.

Photo by David Ashby

past three years, related to audiences the importance of storytelling in the Native American tradition. His stories told of how we all are connected to the earth and how that belief helps to shape and guide people in their own lives.

"People should find that place where you can take off your shoes and connect with Mother Earth. We need

that right now," said Lockwood.

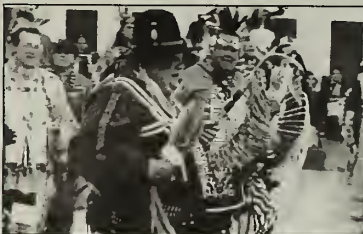
The Pow Wow and the Native American Club itself evolved from Harris' desire for a better public understanding of the Native American people and culture. The club works with the American Indian Center in Chicago to help promote and better understand their intriguing culture.

There is a substantial population of Native American peoples in the Chicago area. In 1954, the federal government "unrecognized" many of the established tribes in the U.S. This meant that the people who belonged to those tribes lost their federal identification numbers and the federal benefits that are associated with being recognized as a Native American. In return, the government offered to provide jobs in certain cities, Chicago being one of those cities.

However, Illinois was not the only state represented at the Pow Wow. When trying to find people to be a part, the Native American Club and the American Indian Center also put advertisements into Native American journals and magazines across the country. This helped to produce a large

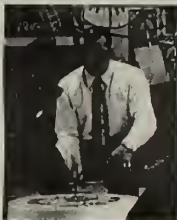
variety of Native American people both in tribes and location.

The Pow Wow is not the only event that the Native American Club is a part of. They frequently invite speakers and attend other functions in order to promote a better awareness of Native American culture. If you want more information, or are interested in joining the club, contact Fred Harris at (815)280-2566



People from all walks of life celebrate Native American culture

Photo by David Ashby



Larry Lockwood inspires the audience.

Photo by Jessica Harvey

JJC military reserves prepare for possible war with Iraq

By David Ashby

As a possible war with Iraq looms over the horizon, American servicemen and women prepare for what could become a major conflict.

According to Linda Thompson, financial aid adviser, there are about 30-40 reservists who currently attend JJC. Much like their fighting brothers and sisters across the globe, they too are preparing for war.

One of these reservists, Rick Rodgers, 29, of the Army National Guard, is a full-time student at JJC. A three-year veteran at the armed services, Rodgers joined the army at the age of 17. He originally wanted to become a police officer but decided that it was not for him. Currently, he is working full-time towards an associate's

degree at JJC. In 2002, he was deployed to Germany in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He fully supports President George W. Bush and a war with Iraq.

"I agree with going to war because terrorism needs to stop," he said. "We need to get in their faces." He also said that his strong belief in God will help guide him through any difficult situations that he may face.

Rodgers, who is in the infantry division, said that he is anxious to experience combat. His step-brother, a sniper on active duty in the U.S. Army, was recently deployed to Turkey.

He said that his regiment is called up for duty, there would be a good chance that he could be sent to the front line. Another possibility is that he could be stationed at home in Illi-

nois, standing guard at airports or nuclear power plants.

Senior Airman Josh Diller, 20, of the Air Force National Guard, is also a full-time student at JJC. In September he had returned from a stint in the United Arab Emirates, where he worked for about six months with satellite communications. He is currently a pre-law major and plans to transfer to either UIC or the University of Illinois.

Though both Diller and Rodgers' families are a bit worried of the possibility of seeing their relatives being shipped off to the Middle East to fight, they proudly stand by them. Rodgers' seven-year-old brother, who idolizes his older sibling, walks around dressed up army fatigues.

"He wants to be just like me," Rodgers said.

Diller says that one of the most important things that people at home could do for the men and women of the armed forces is to send letters and record messages for soldiers fighting overseas.

"The biggest problem of being overseas is isolation," he said. "Most of the people that you see on a day-to-day basis are other servicemen and women."

Stores like Circuit City and Wal-Mart usually have displays which offer people to record a personal message for those fighting overseas. These messages are usually shown to large groups of servicemen and women.

"It's encouraging to know that people at home appreciate what we are doing," he said.

Blazer View

Referendum needed to accommodate college's needs

No question about it, the JJC school population is growing at a rapid pace. And while this may look promising for the college, it will be difficult to accommodate these new students if the college does not have the funds to maintain its campuses.

According to the Department of Institution Effectiveness, in a 10-year span (from 1990 to 2000), enrollment at JJC has increased by 13 percent. However, last year alone during the 2002 spring semester, enrollment increased by over 12 percent from the previous year.

So, on Jan. 21, the JJC Board of Trustees decided to place a referendum requesting a two-cent tax increase in the school's operation and maintenance fund.

Passing the referendum would cost a resident who owns a \$150,000 house an additional \$10 per year in taxes. This is a very small amount, con-

sidering what JJC does for the community.

If the referendum passes, the money will be used to update and repair the school's 30-year-old infrastructure, which is in much need of repair. Major structures that need to be repaired and updated include the heating systems, cooling systems, plumbing systems, roofs and windows.

As it stands right now, the costs for repairing and updating the existing infrastructure costs about \$2.5 million a year. And the physical plant also has a backlog of \$30 million repairs that need to be addressed right away.

To fully understand the need for this referendum, one could compare JJC to a common house. After time, repairs like plumbing and electricity need to be done to the infrastructure. The same applies to JJC's 30-year-old campus.

It would cost the homeowner

around \$2,500 to replace something simple like a roof on a house. However, to replace entire roof of JJC would cost around \$2.5 million.

And I'm sure that most everyone here remembers when there was a sewage backup on the bridge this past December. The damage was estimated at about \$25,000, and it greatly affected campus organizations such as the Blazer and student government. So, how can JJC fix or prevent problems such as those, if there is not enough money to do so?

JJC plays an extremely important role to a wide variety of people in this area. Not only is it a place of higher learning for students who are going on to four-year universities, but it also serves anyone in the community who wants to enhance their skills through continuing and lifelong education.

Some people may feel that voting 'yes' for the referendum won't benefit

them if they do not have children who attend JJC, but these people couldn't be more wrong. The school offers non-credit classes to high school students and all members of the community through the lifelong learning program.

JJC also provides students with a reasonably inexpensive education. The average tuition at public Illinois universities is almost \$4,000 per year, and the cost of independent institutions is approximately \$12,000 per year.

However, tuition at JJC is significantly lower, only costing students approximately \$1,550 a year. And according to the Illinois Community College Board statistics, community colleges account for 60% of all undergraduate students enrolled in Illinois Public Higher Education.

The college district covers a broad area of land, therefore providing services to many people. The district spans 1,442 square miles, which in-

cludes Will County and sections of six other surrounding counties.

It is also important that students in this district are able to attain a high-quality education because these will be the people who make future decisions for our country. We need to maintain quality education for our future leaders.

JJC is the oldest community college in the country, and it has been providing quality education to students since 1901. The college has served hundreds of thousands of residents since its commencement.

If you would like to volunteer to help educate the community about this important referendum for JJC, please e-mail zizhenforjic@icynofollet.com.

And remember to go out and vote 'yes' for the JJC referendum on April 1. For only once a year, you will help maintain an extremely important part of our growing community.

Letter to the Editor
Student Alliance changes name

The former Student Alliance has currently changed their name to Student Government due to the fact of student perceptions.

Most students did not know what Student Alliance was.

Now that our Student Government has made a commitment of leadership in many different committees (i.e., TPC committee, Code of Conduct committee, Academic Standards committee and Beverage Grant Committee), as well as these college committees our Student Government is to include the Illinois

Community College Board and the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee.

Before Student Alliance did not govern under and type of government, but with the change in leadership and commitment the new Student Government is committed to putting JJC Junior College on the state leadership map.

Don Terry

President
JJC Junior College
Student Government

War with Iraq? Dude! Let's just do it

By Matt Furlane

War in Iraq? After years of beer, sports or careerism-induced social apathy, college students all over the country are rousing themselves in protest against war in Iraq. By the way, did anyone under 25 actually vote in the 1999 presidential election? I voted for Dukakis - or somebody like that.

The world is just too damn big to change, and besides, going against culture puts you in the camp of freaks, punks and nerds.

Might as well think about sex and coercing parents into giving us the keys to the Lincoln Navigator (crash that baby). Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow when we get jobs and settle down to be normal.

However, the fresh air of protest can be intoxicating because in the moment you take a stand for something, (like truth) you join the ranks of an elite few (Christ, Gandhi, Chavez, Ali and, oh, why not, Neil Young). If you're gonna do it, do it with your boots on. Andy Warhol was the philosopher of our age, until the Simpsons came around.

War in Iraq? Please, we'll be off there before you can ask, "Should we pay students to binge drink?" Besides, it was our parent's fault. It was their generation that started all this, remember Berkeley?

But, back to Saddam. If you can't love the guy, then at least laugh at him from across the Pacific or whatever sea is between us. It's the 21st century, and the guy still speaks to people with a rifle in his hand - "Hey everybody is cheering for me! Envy my 99.9 percent approval rating, Mr. Bush!"

I think all people seeking power should carry a gun because it is better to be feared than loved.

Sorry Nicole Mozella, I want to be loved, especially by attractive people with money and food in the fridge. And as far as ruling the world, how it, takes way too much time and distracts me from my chief love - downloading MP3's endlessly.

War in Iraq? It's going to totally ruin March madness. First thing there will be a draft and then coaches all over the country will panic because their championship fantasies will wither away as young athletic men go off to war. Artists everywhere will head to Canada because... well let's face it, you don't want to be on the front lines ("Hey Sarge! ol' buddy, listen, I know using multi-colored trousers will give away our position, but they look great in battle, and if we fire in unison to the rhythm of a techno beat, it would really add something original to the polyphonic texture of war.")

War in Iraq? Listen, I need to get out of school and settle down a was

thinking of starting my own reality TV show called "Joe Poverty." I would gather together ten magazine-cover beautiful women and tell them I was living at the poverty level. They would think I was lying and that I was a secret millionaire.

After several wonderful evenings at Wendy's (the salad is great and you know it) I would say, "No, I really am dirt poor... what? Don't leave me! I love YOU (or who YOU are)... YOUR fake blond hair and YOUR distractingly busty implants... I have personality! Damn it, come back!!!" Oh, the ratings.

If a girl had to date a tyrant, I think Kim Dong IV of Central Korea would get top votes. The guy's not poor and although his people are starving, he's obviously not. Girls would melt over his "mother of all" little pobely.

You could rub it for good luck and make him laugh like a little Buddha. And the hair is so retro, like a 1950s IBM bureaucratic remix. But the perk's would make up for it: "Hey little American girl watch this (pause as missile flies to L.A.) How many men from your country can do that? Kiss me you fool!"

War in Iraq? Let's "just do it" and get it over with so we can destroy everything, rebuild it all American style and 10 years from now we can start importing Iraq luxury cars that run on hydrogen and oil-stained Nikes made in presidential palace sweatshops.

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Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at H-1015B.

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March 12, 2003

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Vet tech opens its doors

By GERALYN GARAVAN and
LAURIE KAULZARIC

The vet tech club will host their third annual open house on Saturday, April 5, from noon to 4 p.m. This open house will give local veterinarians, aspiring vet tech students and the public an opportunity to tour the veterinary school building and to find out more about what the veterinary medical technology program offers.

Besides the tours, there will be raffles and booths featuring animal-related products such as pet food, and a booth that will relay information about the Greyhound Rescue Program will also be set up. For additional fun, there will also be a demonstration given by the Joliet Police Department, with its canine unit sporting the new bullet-proof vests the vet tech club donated to the dogs.

Finally, there will be an opportunity to view animals for adoption. The vet tech program gets animals six-months old and older from Animal Control, so the students can learn about the care of animals first-hand.

At the end of each semester, the animals are put up for adoption. This semester, if you attend the Open House, you can view animals such as corgi dogs, cats or guinea pigs, and if interested you can adopt one to bring home.

on May 4

The vet tech club is an organization that was formed three years ago by JJC faculty member Roxanne Olson. Since that time, the club leader position has been passed on to Susan Ripper, who is also a JJC faculty member.

Currently, there are about 40 members in the club. A person who is not studying veterinary technology is unable to hold a club officer position. However, that is the only restriction put on non-vet tech members, and they are not meant to be singled out, says Ripper.

The idea of this club was based on the concepts of helping to educate people about animals and giving something back to the community every year.

One of the vet tech club's events include the annual dog wash. Last fall, diligent club members soaked and scrubbed 100 dogs in one day. And if that wasn't enough, they're going to do it all again next fall.

The club is also working in connection with Avon. There is a flyer that your Avon representative can give to you regarding certain products you could buy to help wildlife. Thirty-five percent from each sale is given to the wildlife fundraiser.

For more information on the Vet-Tech Club or the open house, visit their website at www.jjc.edu/Clubs/vettech/.

Cosmetology program coming soon to JJC

Popular classes set to begin fall semester

By Jen Holderfield

In the spring of 2002, Trendsetters College of Cosmetology approached Joliet Junior College about a dual-enrollment program. After working out the details, the two parties came to a mutual agreement for a partnership to provide students at JJC access to a cosmetology curriculum.

The program will provide college credit classes and will be offered only to those in the cosmetology field. Students enrolled in the program can work toward a Certificate of Achievement or an Associate of Applied Science Degree.

According to Judith Kachel, nursing department chairperson, JJC is currently waiting for the Illinois Community College Board to approve the alliance.

The program's general education classes will be provided on the campuses of JJC, while the cosmetology

classes will be given at Trendsetters. Currently there are two Trendsetters campuses located in Mokena and in Bradley.

Overseeing the JJC portion of the program will be Kachel, while at Trendsetters, Lori Clark will be the supervisor.

Curriculum for the general education classes are as follows: ENG 180 Technical Writing or ENG 101 Rhetoric, PSYC 272 Stress Management, MATH 101 Business Math, CIS 126 Microsoft Office and one elective.

The cosmetology classes at Trendsetters will cover all aspects of hair, nail and make-up. These classes are broken into three level classes; Basic I and II, Intermediate I and II and Advanced I and II.

Graduates will be given the option to walk on commencement day at JJC. All graduates will be qualified to test for their license with the state and many can also go on to achieve a bachelor's degree in business.

Today there is a high demand for graduates in the cosmetology field. Career opportunities include working

at beauty salons, barber shops, skin care salons and nail salons.

Others educated in the field have moved on to image consulting, corporate positions, marketing and writing for magazines, product representation, cosmetic research or cosmetics training as an educator.

Students interested in the new cosmetology program would need to first apply to Trendsetters and get accepted. They would then enroll at JJC and begin classes. Further information is available by calling (708) 478-6907. The program, once approved, is set to start in the Fall 2003 semester.



Tybalt, a collie mix, is one of the many animals at vet tech.

Photo by Adam Farcus



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Civil rights hero Thurgood Marshall reborn on U.S. postage stamp

By David Ashby

Civil rights lawyer and Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall was honored in a stamp unveiling on Wednesday, Feb. 26, on the bridge at the main campus. The presentation, which was sponsored by the Joliet Post Office and JJC, was designed to reflect on the life of Marshall and celebrate Black History Month.

The speakers at the ceremony included J.D. Ross, JJC president; Rev. Theresa Dear, president of the DuPage County NAACP; Anissa Jones, the

director of student activities; Lavon Pettis, student trustee; and James M. Holmes, the lead executive/district manager of the U.S. Postal Service-Central Illinois District.

Members of the JJC Chamber Singers and JJC Chorale also participated in the event, singing the National Anthem, the Negro National Anthem and *I Dream a World*, a song based on a poem by Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes. They were directed by Phillip Spencer and were accompanied by trumpet player Donald Stinson. A grandson of a former slave,

Marshall was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1898 to a teacher and a lawyer. After graduating from high school at the age of 16, he attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, where he graduated with high honors. He then went to study at Howard University in Washington, D.C., after being turned down by the University of Maryland School of Law because of his race.

From 1939-1961, Marshall served as director and chief counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, where he spent much of his time traveling throughout the south and defending victims of racial discrimination. He often lived in very dangerous and hostile circumstances.

"Everyday his life was threatened," said Holmes in his speech.

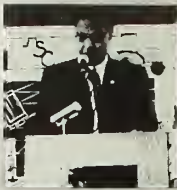
Despite these tough surroundings, he continued to stand his ground and fight against state-sponsored discrimination. During his career as a lawyer he amassed a large amount of victories, including the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* in 1954. Marshall won 29 of the 32 cases he brought to the U.S. Supreme Court, the most ever won by a lawyer in American history.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed him to the United States Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and in 1967, Lyndon B. Johnson nominated him to the Supreme Court. Two months later the Senate confirmed his appointment, making him the first African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

During his 24 years on the highest court of America, Marshall went to great lengths to support the nation's voiceless. He fought against discrimination towards all races, religions and creeds, and he was a major voice for the rights of African Americans, women, prisoners and the homeless. He retired in 1991 from the court due to poor health and died two years later.

Dear spoke passionately about Marshall's legacy. She urged that everybody mind "harvest, embody and act with the same passion and sense of principle that Justice Marshall epitomized." She also said the children of America must realize that "the shoes that they must fill are the worn soles that march for justice and never ran from oppression."

Jones commented that it is always important to respect and value other



J.D. Ross discusses the life of Thurgood Marshall.

Photo by Adam Farcus

culture, and Pettis included in her speech about how Marshall "successfully paved the way so all Americans could reach for their dreams and attain their goals."

The Thurgood Marshall stamp is the 26th addition to the Post Office's Black Heritage Series, which honors a different African American every February in accordance to Black History Month. Previous honorees include Martin Luther King, Jackie Robinson, Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman and Hughes.



Members of the JJC Chorale and the JJC Chamber Singers sing the National Anthem

Photo by Adam Farcus

JJC joins worldwide protest

By Margaret Boelke

On March 3, in 59 countries and all 50 states, more than 1,000 readings of the play *Lysistrata* took place to protest the war against Iraq. Jennifer Ludden, a former student of JJC, organized a local reading on the bridge of JJC's main campus after she was unsuccessful in joining one in the Chicago area.

The play was read mostly by JJC students, including members in the JJC Players club and individuals from theater department. They all had a lot of fun participating, and Ludden is glad she was able to take part in it.

Lysistrata was written more than 2,400 years ago in Greece by Aristophanes and is a tale full of bawdy humor that kept crowds across the world grinning the entire way through. It is the story of *Lysistrata*, who is fed up with all of the men going off to fight in the war between Sparta and Athens. So she organizes the Spartan and Athenian women, and they decide to go on

a sex strike until the men agree to peace. Needless to say, it does not take long for them to comply.

Around the world, but especially in New York and California, the play was read by such known personas as Vanessa Redgrave, F. Murray Abraham and other former stars of *Star Trek* fame.



Jovita Langlois reads *Lysistrata*

Photo by Adam Farcus

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QUESTION OF THE ISSUE:

WHO DO YOU MOST ADMIRE?



Nicholas Partida

"I most admire Amada Rosas for her strength and energy. She maintains a full class schedule, works in Media Services and always volunteers. She is a good role model."



Drew Duzinkas

"I most admire Andy Neill because he's a true individual that is unwavering in his adherence to the principles he believes in, and I respect that."



Lucy Castillo

"I admire my mom because she raised us all on her own. She's always supported me no matter what. She's not only my mom, she's my friend. I'm following my mother's footsteps with my own children."



Chris-KP

"I most admire Michael Jordan because he was a little man who made it big."



Sherry Watts

"I admire my mother because she has always been there for me. She's raised me well, she's very beautiful and she has a real good heart."



Rosendo Rosas

"Everybody. Everybody has something unique about them."

Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey

Breaking down gender barriers

By Jessica Harvey

The important issue of gender was addressed on March 6, when Dr. Roya Falahi-Kharaghani presented "Gender Across Cultures" as part of the Brown Bag Lecture Series.

Falahi stressed the fact that people need to stop applying gender identity from western culture to all other cultures because every culture is different, and they all have their own acceptable gender practices.

First, she made sure that the audience knew the difference between sex and gender. These two terms are often used interchangeably, though should not be used that way. While sex is the biological determination of male or femaleness, gender is the personal and social attachment of maleness or femaleness. (While somebody may be biologically male, they may have the gender of a female).

"Gender affects every aspect of our lives, from infancy to old age," she said.

Falahi talked about the three gender restrictions, introduced by Sandra Bennett.

The first restriction that was addressed was androcentrism, which means male centeredness. Next, she talked about gender polarization, which refers to the falsehood that there only two genders.

The third and final restriction is biological essentialism, which means that there is nothing wrong with the idea of gender polarization. In this restriction, people believe biologically men and women are different; therefore, they must be treated differently



Dr. Roya Falahi-Kharaghani enlightens students

Photo by Adam Fausch

in a social setting.

In the United States and most patriarchal societies there are two dichotomized genders (male and female), and it is often times hard, if not made to seem impossible, to cross the gender lines that have been created.

Falahi also talked about the difference between matriarchal and patriarchal societies and the exploitation of women in patriarchal society. She pointed out that there is no evidence of exploitation of male poverty in matriarchal societies like there is when men are in power and, there is much more female poverty.

"It is very interesting that when we talk about patriarchy, we talk about a system of male domination, but we don't see this in matriarchal and egalitarian societies," said Falahi.

Finally, she talked about the benefits of going beyond the three restrictions while looking at other cultures as well as our own.

"When there are no distinctions made between male and female roles we see violence-free societies. Emphasis is placed on the contribution of the members of the society, not the gender of the contributor," she said.

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News Briefs

Brown Bag Lecture Series: There will be a Brown Bag Lecture entitled "How to Make Money in Real Estate with Little Money, and A Bit of Hard Work," by Michele Story and Bill O'Connor on Wednesday, March 26, at noon in room J-0006.

Childhood Center: Early Childhood Family Fun Night will be held in the childhood center on Monday March 24, from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Fine Arts Department: The Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra, which was designed to promote young and talented musicians, will perform on Sunday, March 16, at 4 p.m. in the fine arts theater. For further information call 729-9020 ext.2223.

Gamer's Club: The Gamer's Club will have a club lock-in at the Cyber Cafe from 3 p.m. to March 15 until 7 a.m. March 16.

Graphology Club: The Graphology Club will be having a handwriting analysis study group on Monday, March 31, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Latinos Unidos: The Latinos Unidos will be having their field trip to the Mexican Fine Arts Museum in Chicago on Saturday, March 22, at 9:30 a.m.

Multicultural Transfer Center: There will be an Adult Learners Expo on Tuesday, March 25, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the T-Concourse.

The Multicultural Transfer Center: will also welcome college recruiters who will provide information sessions from several colleges throughout the semester on Wednesday, April 2, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Representatives from the University of St. Francis will be on the bridge, representatives from Lewis University will be in room J-4036, and representatives from the University of St. Francis will be on the bridge providing information on the adult accelerated programs. To schedule an appointment contact the Multicultural Center at 280-2449.

The MultiCultural Transfer Center: will also hold a minority student orientation on Wednesday, April 9, at 6 p.m. in room J-0004.

Peace Rally: There will be a peace rally on Wednesday, March 12, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the bridge. There will be an open mic and it will feature speakers Sandy Costa, John Lons, music by the JC Chamber Singers, & Choral and music by DJ Steve Naughton.

Social and Behavioral Sciences: There will be an array of speakers talking about the history and importance of Irish Americans on March 14, from noon to 2 p.m. on the bridge.

Speech team talkin' to the top

Winning group looks forward to nationals

By Stephanie Irvine

The JJC Speech Team has been busy with its tournament season this year. On March 7 and 8, the team competed in the Illinois Intercollegiate Forensics Association (IIFA) State Competition at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, and on Feb. 7 and 8, the team competed at the Highland Community College Tournament in Freeport. In the state tournament in DeKalb, Taya Langlois won fourth place for dramatic interpretation and Jamie Motz won fifth place for program of oral interpretation. Also, Langlois and Steve Elmore won third place in the duo category. At the tournament in Freeport, Langlois took home a third place trophy in dramatic interpretation.

Though Langlois is a veteran to speech competitions, this was the first competition for seven out of the eleven students who participated. Many of the speech team's veteran speakers had graduated last semester.

Both the Highland and state tour-

naments included speakers competing in the categories of poetry interpretation, dramatic interpretation, prose interpretation, informative speaking, impromptu speaking and persuasive speaking as well as program oral interpretation and dramatic duo.

Those who competed in the state competition include Langlois, Motz, Elmore, Kevin Shafer, Edwin Alanis, Matt Steffan, Jenna Stworzjanek, Matt Furlane, Jade Phillips, Chrissy Johns and Dan Vargo.

The speech team had planned on competing in the Harper College Tournament Feb. 14 and 15.

However, it had to be canceled due to the large numbers of competitors who were participating in the school play.

With the two tournaments under their belts, the speech team is looking forward to the nationals tournament in Portland, Oregon in April, as well as the regional tournament on March 14 and 15.

The speech team held an open book reading in the theater on Thursday, March 6, as both a preparation for the state tournament and as a fundraiser for the nationals.

Rock Against Racism

By Chris Parker

On Saturday, March 29, at 6 p.m., Action for Freedom (AFF) will host "Rock Against Racism" in the Joliet Junior College cafeteria on the main campus. Many local bands are scheduled to appear, such as Dearest Face, The Zany One and h. Special poetry by Reality will also be presented. The styles of each band range from political and social rock to hip-hop and rap. The event is expected to bring 200 to 300 people.

The cost of the event will be \$2 in advance, and you can purchase tickets at H-1016 on the main campus or pay \$3 at the door. The proceeds will be taken to a national organization such as the NAACP, Human Rights Watch and/or Equality Illinois.

"The goal for this event is to gather a large mass of people in one area and inform them that racism still exists and it hasn't disappeared. As a matter of fact, it happens here in our own community," said Mike Gallo vice president of Action for Freedom.

He stated the only way to get rid of racism is simply to hear about it, talk

about and then prevent it through conversation.

Action for Freedom is a human rights organization that promotes awareness and social change. Professor Edward Senu-Oke is the club advisor and Patrick Hannigan is the president. Hannigan also serves as chairman for the Collegiate Club Council.

AFF also has plans for doing an environmental act in the near future. In this event, they will pick up compost around the area communities. Another plan is to join Food Not Bombs to serve free meals to the homeless.

Action for Freedom presents

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March 12, 2003

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Old school laughs in new hit

By Andrew Hrbec

There has been no movie funnier in recent years than *Old School*. This movie is a modern version of the all-American classic, *Animal House*.

Mitch, Frank and Beanie (Luke Wilson, Will Ferrell and Vince Vaughn) play three friends from college who find themselves getting older and unappreciated with their lives. In an attempt to relive their college glory days, Beanie decides that he is going to turn Mitch's new house, which is located on a college campus, into a fraternity.

Ferrell proves in this film why he is the highest paid *Saturday Night Live* star in history. His character, Frank, had me in tears through the whole movie. He truly is a comic genius.

Vaughn plays his typical quick-witted and charismatic character, while Wilson plays the uptight member of the gang, which fits him perfectly.

Comparisons can be made between *Old School* and *Animal House*, but why bother? Take *Old School* for what it is, a comedy that was designed

to make audiences laugh and have a good time.

I'm sure that it is possible that some of the similarities between the two are a little more than coincidence, but that should be overlooked. *Old School* is by far the best comedy to hit the movie screens since, well, maybe *Animal House*.



Will Ferrell and his female "friend" struggle in *Old School*.

Substance lives up to 'solid' predecessors



Metal Gear Solid 2:

Substance

9/10

By Damon Wrona

Metal Gear is back baby! Well, kind of. The expansion version of the 2001 mega hit *Metal Gear Solid 2: Sons of Liberty*, formerly only available on X-Box, is now coming to a PlayStation near you. Had I reviewed the *Sons of Liberty* a year and a half ago, I would have given it a perfect score. So, how does the expanded version stand up? Are the extras worth ditching out another \$50 for? Read on to find the answers to these questions.

The story for the most part is the same as the original. If you've never played *Sons of Liberty*, I won't spoil anything, but be prepared for a story with more than a few plot twists. *Substance* does, however, give you the option of playing the large part of the

game as hero Solid Snake, rather than just newcomer Raiden (although you can play as him too).

Substance offers a slew of extra modes that will keep the hardcore gamer busy for days. These include a first-person view, sneak, bomb disposal, boss survival, extreme difficulty and skateboarding modes, just to name a few. You also get over 350 VR missions to test all your skills to pass some very difficult scenarios. Almost musical score has also been included. Five new mis-

sions called Snake Tales are also included that take you on little side quests with solid snake that include all new story elements.

So, is any of this stuff worth forking over the cash? Yes, for the most part. The skateboarding pretty much sucks. We've all played Tony Hawk at some point and that just makes this mode seem awful. The VR missions are challenging and will keep you busy for a long time. And the Snake Tales add some more flavor to the game.

When it's all said and done, this is a great game with the tightest gameplay around. Some of the bonuses are fun but may be difficult for the pick-up-and-play gamer. The game is only worth buying if you've never played *Sons of Liberty* or if you are a *Metal Gear* nut. If you have played it, rent it first. For those of you who have never played it, it's a must buy.



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Cancer—For the love of God! Stop eating that yellow snow!

Leo—Take the short plank and walk it. It'll pay off in the long run, trust me.

Virgo—You realize that you're not in Kansas anymore when you wake up wearing ruby red slippers. Be VERY afraid-munchkins bite.

Capricorn—Don't eat the shamrocks—green isn't your color.

Aquarius—I see your future as a baker because you will be cutting the cheese.

Pisces—You realize how sad your life really is when your marriage resembles the relationship you have with your dog.

Switchfoot and 50-Cent are no "letdown"



50 Cent
Get Rich or Die Tryin'

By Thomas Zillgen

Having an album debut at number one on the charts is by no means an easy task, but when that album is produced by Dr. Dre and Eminem, the odds are dramatically increased in your favor. People herald 50 Cent as the next coming of Tupac, which are big shoes to fill considering the same people thought DMX would take up the mantle. With a production staff consisting of rap legends and a crew that can lyrically hold their own, 50 Cent's chances are better than most.

With the release of "Get Rich or Die Tryin'," 50 paints a verbal picture of life as he sees it and most importantly how he lives it. His music and lyrics make him the second hottest rapper in the music business (even 50 publicly states that he is second only to Eminem). With the release of "Wanksta" off the *8 Mile* soundtrack, you can expect his own album to follow the same formula of melodic instrumentals and beats that will make you break your neck from head nodding. This is exactly the case.

"In Da Club" will beat in trucks and clubs months from now and will get insane amounts of airplay on the radio, not to mention constant video play by various MTV affiliates.

Speaking of wanksta, 50 also addresses his rivalry with Ja Rule on track 10, "Back Down." Ja should be embarrassed after hearing it. He gets compared to Cookie Monster amongst other things, and he is basically made to look like a fool. We will have to see if his feelings are hurt badly enough not to respond.

Just wait until "Patiently Waiting" and "Don't Push Me," both featuring Eminem, hit the radio, or until 50's crew G Unit put out an album, then 50 Cent will blow up in a way that he never could have imagined. Unfortunately, waiting will be a tough task as 50's current album is lyrically tight and will make you nod your head and sing along to the chorus. "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" is definitely one you should own.



Switchfoot
The Beautiful Letdown

By Rosalie Lewis

Few things in life are more rewarding than discovering a band that knows how to rock without resorting to melancholic tirades of self-sympathy or trite alt-you-need-is-love gushiness.

It's even better when they have a fresh, original sound that doesn't remind you of at least 37 other bands being played on every radio station in the country.

Well, prepare yourself to be just so rewarded because you're about to be introduced to Switchfoot.

The Beautiful Letdown marks Switchfoot's debut on Columbia Records, but it's actually their fourth studio album to date.

Even if you have heard them before, this record will blow you away. Lyrically, these are some of the most intelligent songs you will ever hear. Sonically, it's all over the place, mixing guitar rock with both organic and techno-influenced beats, as well as some slower-paced tunage that includes piano and acoustic guitars. Serious (but not depressing) moments are interspersed with catchy, well-crafted pop-rock anthems.

Starting things off, we have the first single from the album, "Meant to Live," along with "This Is Your Life" and "More Than Fine," all great rock tunes centered on the thought that we don't have to settle or let unpleasant circumstances define us. "This is your life, are you who you want to be?" is the question that's asked in the second song, and I can't get it out of my head.

"Ammunition" is the biggest rocker of them all, with great guitar riffs and a hooky chorus line. I can't wait to hear that song on the radio. Next up is a remake of their song "Dare You to Move," which appeared in its original version on the soundtrack for *A Walk to Remember*.

This song may be evidence that lead singer Jon Foreman was a motivational speaker in a past life, but there is no question that this life he is gifted with great songwriting abilities.

"Redemption" and "Beautiful Letdown" slow things down, but even these songs contain some experimental quirks that sets them apart.

My favorite song from this entire collection has to be "Gone," a very upbeat, funky tune that will have you singing along by the second verse. For some reason, it reminds me of "Semi-Charmed Kinda Life" by Third Eye Blind, only not quite so nineties. The lyrics are both sentimental and humorous, and the music feels hyper and unfettered.

"On Fire" simmers as a powerful love ballad, and "Adding to the Noise" wakes you up with its admonition to "Turn off your stereo, radio, video." Closing things out is "Twenty-Four," a humble, honest self-assessment that lets us in on the human side of their struggles.

All in all, this is a near-perfect CD with a great combination of fun and introspection.

Ditch class, call in sick at work, do whatever you have to do and go get this CD from Best Buy while it's still only \$9.99. I guarantee that it definitely won't be a "Letdown."

Look for more CD reviews in the next issue of the Blazer.

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Cast members of *Baby* pose for a shot.

Photo courtesy of time arts department

'Baby' fever hits JJC

Sentimental production stirs up audience

By Matt Furlane

Discussions about sex tend to generate words that imply negativity, like "safe" sex because it could be dangerous or "abstain" from sex because sex is bad. But the musical *Baby*, which ran Feb. 27 through March 2 in the JJC Fine Arts Theater, used acting, music, and setting to explore something positive, yet serious, about sex—having a baby.

"Most people at some point in their lives consider having children. And this play looks at that aspect of life," said play director and actor Clay Kirkland. "When I think about this play it's not so much about having a baby. It's about love and the three couples and the various situations they find themselves in. What ultimately matters is their love for one another, and I think that's a timeless message."

"When I think about this play it's not so much about having a baby. It's about love and the three couples and the various situations they find themselves in."

—Clay Kirkland

Although there were humorous moments in the musical, it was not intended to be a comedy but more realistic in tone. The play centers around three couples of different ages who are dealing with the new-found pregnancy and its future implications for their lives. The first couple, Danny and Lizzie (played by Geoff Arndt and Jade Phillips) are optimistic college students who must decide how to adjust to a baby entering into their lives.

The second couple is a pair of athletic thirty-somethings named Nick and Pam (played by Derrick Trumbly and Taya Langlois) who want to have a child but are unable to because of complications.

Finally, the third couple is middle-aged Alan and Arlene (played by Mark Frost and Roxanne Munch) who have three grown children already and are a bit surprised to find another one on the way.

The music, originally written by David Shire, was directed by Thomas Secor and choreographed by Dave Lucchi. It carries the play by maintaining energy when the script's forward-momentum slows down.

The audience was drawn in for particular numbers, like "I Want It All"

and "Fatherhood Blues," which allowed for good vocal displays by all actors, especially Phillips, Trumbly and Langlois, whose voices were exceptional. Songs such as "We Start Today," "What Could Be Better?" and "Two People in Love" acted for good development and allowing for good development and acting as well. "In *Baby*, the music helps tell the story, and helps reveal character," said Kirkland. "I had to do more work with the actors during the singing because they weren't just singing, they were acting. We had to analyze the songs from the standpoint of what is this character thinking as he or she is singing this. You don't get a lot in the traditional musicals."

Baby was based on a book by Sylvia Pearson and was originally produced on a proscenium-type stage with one couple portrayed at a time. For the JJC production, Kirkland opted for something different.

"A real challenge was figuring out the set. I wanted a set that would allow us to have no set changes so that the action could flow smoothly. I felt it was important for us to be able to have all the couples on stage in their own environment," said Kirkland.

For people who attended the show, that's exactly what they were able to see because the set dominated the stage with each couple portrayed in their bedroom, going from the left, in the middle and on the right, and all were joined together with spotlighting signifying scene changes.

When *Baby* originally opened on Broadway in 1982 at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre, it received mixed critical reviews for being in plot and fat in "sitcom jokes." Also, all the couples were Caucasian and came from middle-class America. This isn't wrong, it just limits in perspective.

The JJC Theatre Department, which produced the Laramie Project and Everyman earlier this season, will continue its challenging repertoire with the production of *Suddenly Last Summer* by Tennessee Williams, a play that deals with a young woman's reluctance to relive the tragic death of her cousin and a mother's refusal to accept the circumstances surrounding that death.

Directed by Nikki Blowers, it will run from April 10 through April 13. For ticket information call the box office at (815) 280-2200.



Who will take home the golden boy?

By: Matt Sheehan

Sure, award shows are nothing but popularity contests—nominal acts of lunacy to award people with the honor of fifteen minutes of fame, sometimes bringing that limit into overtime. Oh, wait. The American Music Awards already took place? Okay then. Forget everything I told you—it's Oscar time!

Now, here is the disclaimer: the following is a major act of opinion and, possibly, stupidity, but for no reason at all are you to take what I have to say seriously—that is, unless, I am correct on every single one!

Best Motion Picture: Most certainly, Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York* is most deserving and my choice for the crème de la crème of the film industry. However, *Chicago* is everybody's favorite. *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* was shunned, for the most part, out of the majority of the categories. This is one of its six nominations—four others for technical stuff. *The Hours* will be honored for overall quality but for individual roles instead. Dito for *The Pianist*, specifically the performance of Adrien Brody.

Should Win: *Gangs of New York*
Will Win: *Chicago*

Best Actor: Let's get this right off the bat—the Academy loves Jack Nicholson. And seeing that he has been nominated for the 12th time with *About Schmidt*, look for him to steal it from all the nominees—Daniel Day-Lewis in *Gangs of New York*. However,

the one who may steal it from them all is Adrien Brody in *The Pianist*, whose bandwagon has picked up steam since the nominations were announced.

Should Win: Daniel Day-Lewis, *Gangs of New York*
Will Win: Jack Nicholson, *About Schmidt*

Best Actress: By far, this is one category to call a winner for. Nicole Kidman, in my eye, seems to be the frontrunner. Diane Lane drew awes all last year for her adulterous role in *Unfaithful*. Julianne Moore was talked about for her role in *Far From Heaven* even before the film was released.

Salma Hayek fought for and was generally lauded as the title role in the true-life film *Frida*. Renee Zellweger, who was slipped in last year with *Bridget Jones's Diary*, is a dark horse now, since she won the Golden Globe for *Chicago*.

Should & Will Win: Nicole Kidman, *The Hours*

Best Supporting Actor: Besides the fact that Andy Serkis, for his flawless performance as the CGI Gollum in *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*, was not nominated, I will have to make do with the nominations that the Academy has given us.

Christopher Walken, in one of his first non-outcast roles in *Catch Me If You Can*, is my shoe-in for the golden statue. However, John C. Reilly may sneak up on (but not necessarily capture) the golden man for *Chicago*.

And the only reason Paul Newman was nominated for *Road to Perdition* was because... he's Paul Newman!

Should & Will Win: Christopher Walken, *Catch Me If You Can*

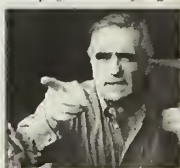
Best Supporting Actress: Julianne Moore, like her Best Actress-nominated role in *Far From Heaven*, got some good buzz for *The Hours* before the film's release. Also, this is a rare occurrence in the world of Oscar: an actor/actress nominated in two different categories for two different movies. Julianne Moore earns credit for that alone. However, Kathy Bates' oddball role in *About Schmidt* is my choice.

Should & Will Win: Kathy Bates, *About Schmidt*

Best Director: Martin Scorsese. 'Nough said. The man should have two already on his mantle for *Goodfellas* and *Taxi Driver*, but does he? No, damnit! The man will get it this year. Scorsese rules!

Should & Will Win: Martin Scorsese, *Gangs of New York*

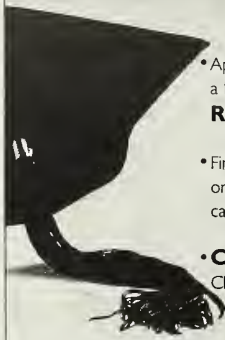
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Wolves of the Issue



Photo by David Smith

Women's softball ready for season

Lady Wolves are ready and rarin' to go

By Adam Fox

Each season is a beginning of new challenges and tribulations. For the JJC ladies softball team, this upcoming season is no different.

Starting almost completely over this year, the Wolves will have a team that consists mostly of freshmen, not to mention a new head coach in Ed Sutter.

The veteran core of his team consists of Tara Walden, Carly Gura and Emily Sutter. These three players will be looked upon not only for their skill on the field but also for their leadership and guidance.

The incoming freshmen that Coach Sutter is especially excited about include shortstop and tough defensive presence Caitlyn Crookrite. Another standout is catcher Erica Deninger, who is a can't-miss prospect.

"We are going to be a little stronger this year," says Sutter. "Last year we had eight good players, and worked around some substitutes."

We have nine good players with a possibility of ten good players. So, I am looking forward to this season."

Look for these Lady Wolves to be fierce competitors this season. They play their first home game on Sunday, March 23 against Marquette University JV at 12 p.m.

Bright future for 'Baby Bulls'

By Andrew Hrubec

Could it be that the "Baby Bulls" are starting to show their true potential? Is Tyson Chandler beginning to look like the kid that Jerry Krause traded Elton Brand for? Is he becoming the kid that we all wished and hoped that he could be?

The shot blocking, point scoring, rebounding beast is finally starting to show his true colors. Chandler has posted 14.1 points, 2.5 blocks and the most impressive stat of all, grabbing 11.2 rebounds per game since the break.

What about Eddy Curry? Curry

has been on a tear in recent games. In six games played, dating back from Feb. 18 to 26, Curry has averaged 16.3 points and 6.5 rebounds.

Is the Bulls' future brighter than what everyone thought? Could the Bulls finally be making strides towards a potential playoff team? In previous years, the Bulls have been unable to lure big on- or off-agents into Chicago, but with the recent emergence of the kiddies, it's very possible that we will see perennial all-stars knocking on Chicago's door. Think about it, who wouldn't want to play with two agile 7-footers, or close to it. Eddy Curry is 6-11.

What's more impressive than their recent stats is their maturity. Chandler was on the Score's radio show, Bores and Bernstein. He stated that he wanted to be the cornerstone for the Bulls franchise and that he has made Chicago his home. He also mentioned that he has to continue to work hard to build up strength in his legs and hands to be more physical in the post.

I once thought of Chandler and Curry as the next K.G. and Shaq, but I see things differently now. I see Chandler being more like Jermaine O'Neal and Eddy Curry playing more like a smaller Hakim Olajuwon.

But who knows, maybe because both players have unique styles of play we should just refer to them as who they are and not compare them to who they can be. I for one am excited about our "Baby Bulls."

Christian bands gather for See Spot Rock

Concert provides fun, entertainment and moral messages

By Rosalie Lewis and Sabrina Dizenzo

Picture a bunch of people gathered around a stage with their fists in the air, waiting for the band to come on. The lights go up and the band is faintly seen in the background. The crowd then goes crazy.

It sounds like something you would see out of Warped Tour or Ozfest but no, this was actually a concert event called See Spot Rock, a Christian-oriented tour that has a variety of bands from funk hip-hop to punk and ska.

All of this took place on Feb. 23 at Benedicline University in Lisle.

Newcomers Sanctus Real, a tight rock band from Ohio, got the party started. They featured a style that was a mix of SR-71 and American High-Fi.

They started off the evening with a bang by helping to hype up the crowd. So, if you're into more catchy pop-punk bands, check them out.

Rapper John Reuben pulled double duty as both performer and MC of the evening, and he was the second act on the bill, accompanied by his partner in rhyme DJ Manuel.

With John's quirky sense of humor and Maury's skills on the turntables they brought energy throughout the whole place.

The duo got the crowd moving with songs like "Up and At 'Em" and "I John Reu." They also performed brief renditions of family favorites "Ice Ice Baby" and "U Can't Touch This," which of course were met with much applause.

"I was influenced by early 90s hip-hop and a Tribe Called Quest," says Reuben.

During Reuben's set, the audience was also treated to DJ Manuel's break dancing skills and wonderful scratching abilities.



Mojo from the Superjones sings his heart out at See Spot Rock

Photo by Sabrina Dizenzo

If you like the Beastie Boys, John Reuben will definitely appeal to your taste, and he will not disappoint you.

Pillar hit the stage next with a fiery, showcasing their band of hard rock and rap core.

Their creative growth as a band and their tight sound and stage presence were very impressive.

There has definitely been marked improvement over the years.

These guys are going places, no doubt about it. Their songs "Behind Closed Doors," "Echelon," "Open Your Eyes" and "Fireproof" sizzled with passion and energy, but the climax came with their final song, "Indivisible."

As you might guess, it's a song for America. Flags were waving in the crowds as the auditorium swelled with the chorus, "In God we trust, in God we trust!"

Relient K never disappoints and they were up to their usual antics. They had an awesome stage presence, as well as a gigantic statue of a bulldog. These kids were as wacky as Blink 182.

The band played quite a few songs, which included "Pressing On," "Down In Flames," "For The Moments I Feel Faint" and "Sadie Hawkins

Dance." Snippets of Avril Lavigne's "Sk8r Boi" and Eminem's "Lose Yourself" were met with many cheers, and John Reuben hit the stage with a big sign that read "Yo Yo Yo."

Matt Thiessen led the crowd in chanting those words during the chorus of "Lose Yourself."

Finally, the headlining band was California's own Superjones. They came onstage after a video introduction of them as the STPD (Super Jones Police Department), complete with hilarious names, costumes and wigs. Musically, they mixed new with old.

"Supafly" and "Go Go Go" were awesome, as well as the slower "Hold On To Jesus," all of which appear on their latest album, *Hi-Fi Revival*. They, of course, had to play favorites: "Little Man" and "Superjones Strike Back," among many others.

Now does any of this sound like a night of rock? Not exactly. This was just a night of good music, good company and good times.

The next someone brings up that they are into Christian rock, don't look on it as a way to convert you but as a way to let you know there are other types of music out there to experience.

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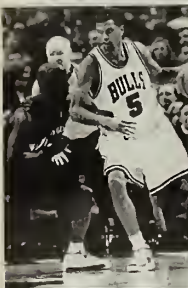
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Jalen Rose faces off against Michael Jordan during a game

Photo from chicagobulls.com

March 12, 2003

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Sports supplement Ephedrine strikes again

By Adam Fox

On Feb. 17 it struck again, another casualty fell victim to this horrible fad. Steve Bechler, a promising young pitcher for the Baltimore Orioles became another statistic for those who think performance-enhancing drugs should be banned. But, the question arises, should they?

Major League Baseball, which allows ephedrine to be used, is one of the only professional sports leagues to do so. The National Football League, International and U.S. Olympic Committees and the NCAA have all banned this substance.

Ephedrine, which can be found in many over-the-counter medicines, including Xenadrine RFA-1, was the type that Bechler was using. Bechler took the drug because one of his coaches said he was overweight and because he needed to lose weight in order to have a better shot at making the team. In a case from the National Football League, Minnesota Vikings lineman Korey Stringer died from heat-

stroke-related complications during the summer of 2001. Although ephedrine was not found in his blood stream, there was a bottle containing the substance in his locker, as was in Bechler's case. This shows the wide extent of the usage of this drug in all sports.

The NFL conducts random drug testing league wide and if it finds ephedrine in a player's system, he is then banned for four games. At least the NFL is taking a stand.

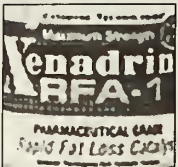
The some of the side effects for ephedrine are heart attack, elevated blood pressure, stroke, seizure, psychosis and possible death.

While this is actually a very serious matter, most players don't consider it so. New York Yankee pitcher David Wells openly admitted to using ephedrine and his lack luster attitude for his own life makes people leech him.

The point that gets lost in the aftermath of all this nonsense is the question of why players even feel the need to take supplements like ephedrine. They have reached every child's dream, to play in a professional sports game.

My question is what else is there? The problem is that they want to be the best of the best, elite even, in order to be paid an outrageous sum of money to play baseball or football, or what have you.

Should the respective sports commissioners ban substances like this? Yes. However, players will find a way around this ban by taking some other substance to enhance their play, like caffeine. Will this never-ending spiral of trying to advance by cheating ever end? Sadly, probably not.



You won't meet this murderer in a dark alleyway

Men's basketball fall by one point

By Andrew Hrubec

On March 1, the Wolves closed out their season after a disappointing 66-65 loss to the College of DuPage. This marks the second straight season in which the Chaparrals have ended the Wolves' season.

Joliet entered the tournament as the number six ranked team in NCAA Division III basketball. The first game of the tournament for Joliet pinned them against Rock Valley College. Joliet went on to win by a decisive score of 90-63 behind Earl Hughes' 11 rebounds and Gordon Morgan's 15 points.

The Wolves looked fresh and full of energy as they dismantled the Golden Eagles, but they wouldn't favor as well in the second game of the tournament.

DuPage had beaten Joliet earlier in the season, but the Wolves were looking to attack their prey without mercy. JJC led at the half by a score of 27-20, but unfortunately, they found themselves on the losing end in the second half.

After a barrage of three-point field goals by freshman Troy Shanks of the

Wolves, the deficit was narrowed, and Joliet tied the game at 60-60 with about three and half minutes left to go in the game. But DuPage's Corey Larde scored 19, and he proved to be the deciding factor that made Joliet seem to be powerless against his presence.

Although Joliet's defense couldn't stop Larde, what hurt Joliet the most was their free throw shooting. Joliet was unable to take advantage of their opportunity at the charity stripe as they only connected on 4 of 13 shots.

"Our free throw shooting down the stretch did us in again," said Coach Joe Kuhn on the JJC website. "It would be nice just to hit the shots and get all the breaks one time in this game, but that just did not happen for us tonight."

The Wolves' leading scorer of the season, Morgan, scored a game-high 22 points, while freshman Shanks and Michal Varvek combined for 23 points.

The Wolves were hoping to exercise their demons of recent years against DuPage, but the Chaparrals proved once again to be too much for Joliet.

Rebuilding season comes to an end

Lady Wolves finish tough season

By Jessica Harvey

The Joliet Junior College women's basketball team was unable to pull off an upset in the first round of the 2003 National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) Division II Region IV Tournament. They fell to the College of DuPage with a score of 69-46 on Friday, Feb. 28, in Palatine, Ill.

The Lady Wolves' collective skills weren't enough to beat the Lady Chaparrals, who were ranked first in the NJCAA Division III women's basketball poll. Attempting to defeat the Lady Chaparrals proved to be extremely difficult, especially with star player Candace Robinson on the bench for most of the game.

Robinson twisted her knee with less than eight minutes left in the first half, and she never returned to the game. However, the Joliet Township High School graduate still recorded four points and 10 rebounds in the game.

Freshman guard Kelly Pero led the way for the Lady Wolves. She recorded 18 points during the game and was the team's leading scorer this season.

Seniors Danielle Mumma, Alison Wilder and Jody Byers sported their Wolves uniforms for the last time, and the three scored a total of 21 points.

"I really believe our girls played their hearts out today," said head coach Tony Giese, whose team ended this season by winning three of its last five games. "They gave it everything they had against a tremendous team, and they left it all out on the floor."

With the loss, the team ended their season with a 12-19 overall record, and 2-6 in the North Central Community College Conference (NCC).

The Lady Wolves did pull off a major post-season win with a 76-47 victory over Oakton Community College



Jody Byers passes the ball.

Photo by Adam Faxon

on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Three players scored double figures, which led the women's basketball team to a season-high 76 points.

"We are really starting to come together out there," said head coach Tony Giese, whose team has won three of its last four games.

Robinson, Pero and Mumma led the way for the Lady Wolves, scoring a combined total of 53 points during the game.

Robinson scored a game-high of 22 points, as well as 15 rebounds and three blocks. The Lady Wolves' leading rebounder also recorded her 22nd straight double-double.

Pero recorded 20 points and seven assists against the Raiders.

Mumma contributed 11 points of her own. She also scored seven rebounds.

Despite winning its three previous games, the Lady Wolves fell 50-55 to South Suburban College in its final game of the regular season on Feb. 18.

Robinson and Byers led the way for the women's basketball team. Together they scored 24 points and grabbed 15 rebounds in the game.

"I think we have really made a name for ourselves this year," said Giese, who won a total of 10 more games than a year ago (2-28). "Thanks to the hard work and effort of our girls this season, we have laid a solid foundation for years to come."



Kelly Huel rushes past her opponent.

Photo by Adam Faxon

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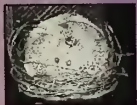
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Emotions and opinions fly on bridge at peace rally

Many views expressed about peace at event

By Justin Johnson

There was a large turnout for the peace rally on Joliet Junior College's Veteran's Memorial Bridge on Wednesday, March 12.

The peace rally was not a cry for immediate peace in Iraq, but rather a challenge issued to those in attendance to alter their perception of the world to one of peaceful non-violence.

The peace rally acted as a forum not only to define peace but also to voice many of the different opinions and voices that are present in our society and on the campus.

"One of our valuable resources is the divergence of opinions on different issues," said JJC president J.D. Ross, who opened ceremonies.

Biology instructor Andy Neil explained to the crowd of over 100 people that the peace they were talking about was not the peace from cessation of war, but the peace of in-

ner contentment. He urged that people focus on the peace talked about by non-violent leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi and the Dalai Lama. This peace, according to Neil, that "can only be achieved through the development of mental peace."

John Lyons, a professor of history at JJC, emphasized that protesting wars in the United States is not an un-American act.

He argued the very opposite, that protesting wars is a historical part of America and that the Constitution and the fabric of America allow for citizens to voice their approval and disapproval of the nation's actions, including war.

He provided examples of groups of people protesting wars from the American Revolution to Operation Desert Storm.

Sandy Costa, a local artist and activist, outlined and stressed the importance of the non-violent resistance. Costa challenged the audience to seek common ground with an opponent and to see people as equals. Then when an



Many people at the peace rally participated in group singalongs and discussions.

Photo by Adam Facus

opponent is shown their errors there is a foundation for rebuilding a better relationship, instead of the winner enforces new rules on the loser of a dispute.

"Non-violence seeks new solutions to old problems," said Costa. "The non-violent path is something we create by walking it."

After the speakers, the JJC Chamber Singers and Chorus, as well as the Universalist Unitarian Church of Joliet Choir gave musical contributions. Then the microphone was opened in order for members of the audience to voice their own opinions. Many people, like Mike Gallo, a student at JJC, echoed the same sentiments expressed throughout the rally.

"We do not have the right to run this world," said Gallo. "Hate begets hate." Those offering differing opinions in praise of the nation's current war efforts received a chorus of boos until reminded by members of the peace rally planning committee that the assembly was to be carried in a manner of respect for one another.

"I am glad people are here to have this open discussion. I just want to keep it in terms of respect," said Lavon Pettis, a member of the peace rally planning committee and college student trustee.

After reading the United Nations Environmental, Science and Culture Organization's (UNESCO) peace manifesto, which reiterated ideas expressed throughout the rally, much of the crowd dispersed.

However, some stayed to talk amongst themselves while DJ Steve Naughton spun records through the stereo system.



An innocent child makes people think of peace.

Photo by Adam Facus



A group of women carry signs to show their support for the U.S. troops in Iraq.

Photo by Adam Facus

JJC student tragically murdered

By David Ashby

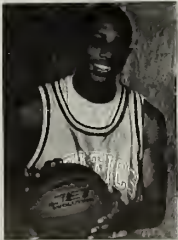
He was 21-years-old and had a bright future ahead of him. However, the life of JJC student Vincent Martin was tragically taken away from him by an assailant's bullet in the early morning hours of March 17, in a nightclub parking lot.

According to the Harvey police department, Martin and a group of friends were celebrating the start of spring break by going to a nightclub in Harvey, Ill. At around 12:40 a.m., they decided to head home. As Martin and a friend were about to leave the nightclub parking lot, an unidentified male approached the car and shot Martin in the chest, killing him.

Currently, there are no suspects or arrests in the murder, and the Harvey police department believes that the motive most likely could have been a carjacking or an armed robbery.

Martin was born on July 9, 1981, in Joliet, where he was a lifelong resident. He attended Ridgewood Baptist Academy and Providence High School. At Providence, he was a star basketball player and helped lead the Celtics to many victories on the court. After high school, he played with the Illinois Warriors, an amateur basketball team that allowed talented athletes a chance to play the sport all across the state and a chance to play in front of college scouts.

At JJC, Martin was an ambitious business student. He planned to trans-



Vincent Martin

Photo courtesy of Regina Martin

fer to DePaul University once he received his associate's degree. According to his mother, Regina, Martin aspired to graduate from college and become a successful entrepreneur.

"Passing a legacy of education down to his [future] children was very important to him," he said.

The death of Martin has been a horrible shock to all who knew and loved him. Those who knew him best remember him for his personality, easy going and kind-hearted person.

Martin is survived by his mother, Regina, his father, Thomas, and an older brother, Kyle. He was laid to rest on Monday, March 24

Voters say NO!

Public fails to approve tax increase that would fund JJC

By Thomas Zilligen

The ballots have been accounted for and voters spanning seven counties have overwhelmingly rejected the reduced referendum proposal to help JJC's financial woes.

With only 19,250 voters showing support for the referendum and only 24 percent of the county voting this year, the hopes of financial assistance for JJC's operations and maintenance fund were dashed with a 50,550 vote total against the referendum.

The tax increase would have cost the owner of a \$150,000 house an extra \$10 a year and would have raised about \$2 million a year for the operations and maintenance fund. This was a drastic reduction from last November's referendum.

Last November's referendum called for a tax increase of \$40 a year for the owner of a \$100,000 home to help lessen the \$30 million in deferred maintenance. The referendum was defeated and a suggestion was made to decrease the amount of money requested for financial assistance.

"We are extremely disappointed

"We are extremely disappointed but not suprised."

-Roxanne Geraci-

but not surprised," said Roxanne Geraci, JJC's director of cooperation. "The majority of referendums on the ballot were shut down. People are just fed up with tax increases and the current state of the economy."

When asked what comes next in the search for more funding, Geraci said that the next step is to go to the Illinois Community College Board's state meeting on April 8 and see if the state will be able to help assist the college with more funding.

According to Geraci, tuition raises, limiting enrollment and student fee increases would be examined after the state board meeting, but the main focus currently is the board meeting.

Letters to the Editor

Instructor applauds coverage

Blazer recognized for speech team stories

On behalf of the Joliet Junior College Speech Team and Phi Rho Pi, the college's forensics honors society, I want to thank Matt Furlane and Stephanie Irvine for the excellent articles that you have included in the *Blazer* this year!

Matt's article last semester was great for increasing our visibility and interest, and Stephanie did an outstanding job with her article in the March 12 edition!

When I sent Stephanie the "results" from our state competition on

March 7 and 8, I had no idea if she would be able to add them to the article she had already completed... but she did, and the article is great!

Your willingness to help us promote the speech team is wonderful! We will be traveling to Portland, Oregon from April 14 to 20 to participate in the Phi Rho Pi Nationals. Any coverage you can provide us for those two tournaments will be appreciated!

Once again, thanks!

Cordially,
Bobette Wolesensky
Speech Team/Phi Rho Pi Co-Sponsor

Reader comments on peace rally

Blazer reader discusses peace program held at JJC on March 12

Dear Editor,

I am writing to accurately explicate the purpose of the recent peace rally held at JJC on March 12. It was not, as some egocentric, conflict-seeking and thoroughly unpleasant people have said, a reactionary event spurred on by the recent events in the Middle East.

Anyone who actually took the time to event mental effort and examine the event's superbly-designed program would understand that the rally had nothing to do with war and everything to do with peace.

I was personally pleased by the majority of the program, and I felt that most of the people that chose to take advantage of the open microphone session presented lucidly valid arguments concerning the war issue.

However, I think that those who chose to use the peace rally as a platform for their own political opinions denied themselves the true peace experience. Peace is not the antithesis of war, rather, it is the absence of war and its need.

The entire event was inspired by the Peace Manifesto, a document created and distributed by UNESCO, which is affiliated with the United Nations. The manifesto promoted cultural tolerance, responsible consumerism, environmental responsibility and personal accountability within the community.

The basic concept goes like this: if humankind can adhere to these prin-

ciples, slowly but surely the need for conflict would be eliminated.

Some scoff at this idea, denouncing it as a pseudo-liberal daydream that was created by a bunch of tie-dye wearing hippies.

I say, why is this impossible? Is it impossible for American people to stop fearing their neighbor, to trust one another, to pick ourselves up and make the conscious choice to make ourselves accountable for our decisions and its consequences?

Our generation is presented with a dilemma: while we have not officially lost our freedom yet, we lose a little more every day.

Social and cultural intolerance is a form of oppression, as is denouncing the beliefs of others.

So for all you pro and anti-war people, I have a message: your intolerance for the other side's argument is inherently oppressive, and you should be ashamed.

The fact that both sides chose to flamboyantly and publicly spew vitriolic rhetoric contradicted the real message behind the peace rally, and was counterproductive to the intent of the whole affair.

It is only when we as a people learn to stop being self-righteous and self-centered that the true power of peace can be realized.

I make one request for those who make the decision to read this letter: don't believe that you are too small and that the world is too big for you to make a difference.

Anonymous

The writer, a JJC student, has asked to remain anonymous.

Blazer View

Supporting U.S. troops is crucial

With Operation Iraqi Freedom entering its fourth week and the death toll of coalition troops exceeding 100, many people seem to have mixed feelings about this war. Some people didn't realize that the war would take this long, while others knew that the U.S. was in it for the long haul.

Even here at JJC some students expressed their disgust with the war during an open-mic session that was held during the peace rally on March 12.

But no matter what views you may have about this war, it is extremely vital to support the troops overseas during this troubling time. These brave men and women put their lives on the line every day, and they need to be appreciated.

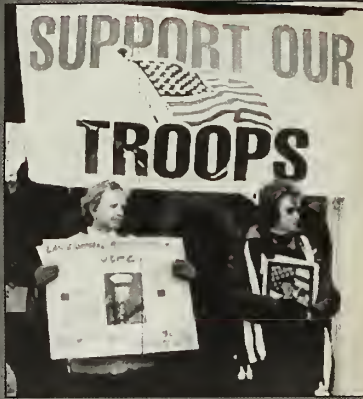
One of the hardest things to deal with overseas is isolation. Soldiers are unable to see family members and loved ones for months at a time. There are many ways that people back in the states can remind the troops that we care and want to see them home safely.

Right here at JJC there is a community effort to support the troops and help get them supplies. Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Delta Mu, JJC students, staff and faculty are sponsoring this event.

The U.S. servicemen and women in the Middle East need items such as toothpaste, combs, razors, shampoo, soap, bathroom tissue, baby wipes, individually wrapped and purchased cookies and crackers, greeting cards, envelopes, pens, paper, cigarettes, board games, card games, video games and batteries. These items can be dropped off at the theater lobby, D-mail, Abolishing Conscience and I building CDS lab.

Monetary donations to support the troops can be given to Rita Monroe, whose office is located on the second floor of K-building, or Patricia Sine in room E-1029. The checks should be made payable to Canistry Post 367.

Another way you can help the troops get through the long and lonely days overseas is by a program called "Adopt a Soldier." If you have someone in the military, no matter where they are, send their address to ADOPT-A-SOLDIER, 119 Main Street, Chico, CA, 95926, and they will find seven people to adopt your soldier. Each of the seven adopters will write the soldier a letter one day of the week. If you want to adopt a soldier, send your name and address to the same location and



Four women support the troops in a local rally held in Dixon, Ill.

Photo by Adam Fureus

you will be matched with a serviceman or woman.

Stores such as Circuit City and Wal-Mart provide the opportunity for people to record personal messages for the troops fighting overseas. These recordings can be shown to large groups of servicemen and women when they have down time.

Operation Military Pride offers many ways that citizens can support the troops. Right now they are trying to raise enough money to send 3,500 care packages overseas by Armed Forces Day. You can find out more about this organization by visiting

www.operationmilitarypride.org

If you want to show your support for the troops locally, you can display yellow ribbons. Tie them around trees, doors and mailboxes. You can also wear pins to express your support.

Remember, these small efforts that you can take will have great effects on the soldiers' outlook when they are liberated from loved ones back home. Making letters and packages can be fun, easy and it will help subdue pain and frustration. Let the servicemen and women fighting overseas know that we care.

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April 9, 2003

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JJC history professor John Lyons discusses the impact of Irish-Americans in Chicago
Photo by Adam Farus

The Irish in America

By Jen Holderfield

On March 14, JJC held a presentation on the bridge from noon to 2 p.m. about Irish Americans.

When asked about the purpose and goals of the program, sociology teacher Dennis Doyle, who organized this presentation, said that it was designed to abolish the many stereotypes of Irish Americans and to show a brief overview of their history.

There were four speakers, and they focused on immigration, assimilation and the impacts on the city of Chicago. These speeches were given between noon and one.

A guest speaker from Loyola University spoke on Irish America and the Ulster Conflict which, occurred between 1968-1995.

Doyle was the first speaker. He discussed the immigration of the Irish to America. According to him, the Irish were not actual immigrants but rather refugees. He said they were running from famine, religious persecution and scarcity of resources.

The British had forced their homeland and its people into extreme poverty and suppression. The Irish had one chance to survive, leave their country and go to America.

The second speaker, Johnnie Johnson, sociology teacher, spoke on the assimilation of Irish Americans. Stereotypes and xenophobia, the fear of strangers, was discussed, as well as

the group called the Know Nothings, which evolved into the KKK. Other topics included the election of John F. Kennedy and how the Irish were finally awarded the right to be called true Americans.

The third speaker was John Lyons, JJC history teacher. He presented the impacts of Irish Americans on the city of Chicago.

The big five impacts discussed were politics, school, churches, the labor movement and pubs. The low paying jobs Irish men held included work on the I&M canal, the railways, construction and the steel industry. Irish women, on the other hand, held domestic and teaching jobs.

Finally, the guest speaker, Andrew Wilson, discussed the Irish American support for the Irish Republic Army (IRA).

He restated some of the information about the Irish immigration history. He then discussed reasons for the creation of the IRA and explained why many Irish-Americans felt it was the best way to fight British injustice.

This support was very important because it unified Ireland against the British.

The program ended with a question and answer session with Andrew Wilson. Anyone who missed the program, or wants more information, is welcome to inquire about Irish American stereotypes, impacts or their history with any of the four speakers.

QUESTION OF THE ISSUE: WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE WAR WITH IRAQ?



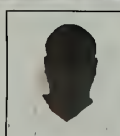
Brooke Skeen

"I think this war doesn't meet the criteria for a just war and that there were more appropriate means of conflict-resolution that could have been explored."



Theo Landcastle

"I think it's really unnecessary because we're fighting for no reason and they're fighting on holy land. I don't think God would appreciate that. What it all boils down to is that I think the Lord will be the one to fight the war, and I think Bush is the devil."



Dontayon Jimereson

"It's not necessarily a good or bad thing that we are at war, but we have to do what we have to do and we need to stop this regime because they are a threat to the entire world."



Stephanie Bates

"I don't think that we should be having this war because I don't think Bush is representing the U.S. accurately and is fighting for selfish reasons."



Jay-C

"I'm for it because I think if we don't take care of Saddam Hussein now, who is going to take care of him later?"



Nate Applebee

"I agree with the war because it's going to protect the world's freedoms."

Photos and copy by Jessica Hurley

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Business Profile

Midwest Mafia body shop satisfies the need for speed

By Thomas Zilligen

What does a guy do when he gets tired of driving back and forth from Joliet to Chicago just to buy parts for his car? For Eric Woods, owner of Midwest Mafia Racing, the answer is simple: you open up your own shop.

The racing bug bit Woods in 1998, when he purchased a Dodge Stealth and proceeded to make it a faster, more race-worthy car. As time passed, he got married, purchased a Toyota Supra and continued to build up his cars.

After growing tired of traveling to Chicago every time he wanted a part, he decided to toss his hat into the speed shop ring, and in August of 2002 he introduced Joliet to Midwest Mafia.

Mafia Racing currently has two demonstration vehicles, a Mazda RX-7 (currently under construction) and a '99 Cadillac Escalade. Both vehicles have extensive modifications done to them.

Woods claims, "If I can't get a specific part for the cars, I just won't put it on them."

Installation of any car part is, however, up to the customer.

For some tips on finding the right shop for your car, Woods advised people to, "Take a weekend off and look around for shops."

Hang out at the shop for a bit and ask questions, and check out the garage. Look at the cars they are working on and the attitude of the workers there."



Two cars outside of Midwest Mafia

Photo by Thomas Zilligen

Woods says that he is also really excited about some of the new cars coming out, as well as some that have just recently hit showroom floors. Cars like the new Dodge Neon SRT-4, with its factory-rated 215-horsepower turbocharged 4-cylinder engine, and the Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution 8, which may very well be the next Midwest Mafia demo car.

Midwest Mafia can get any part for

pretty much any kind of car on the market, but their real area of expertise is in SUVs and import cars. From Hondas, Mazdas, and Mitsubishi, to Fords, Chevys and Cadillacs, Mafia Racing can get what you need in about three days.

For any parts or questions, contact Midwest Mafia at (815) 730-3345, or visit their website at www.MafiaRacing.com.



A big bad SUV

Photo by Thomas Zilligen

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News Briefs

Fine Arts Department: The Fine Arts Department will present an exhibit that features JJC artists in the Laura A. Sprague Gallery, which will be run from March 25 through April 17. The gallery is open from 8 until 8 Monday through Friday.

Fine Arts Department: The JJC Jewelry Class will be having a hand crafted jewelry sale on April 16 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Items to be sold include handcrafted earrings, pins, pendants, rings, bracelets, chain in gold, silver, copper, brass and titanium. In addition, hand worked glass beads will be on sale.

North Campus: The North Campus in Romeoville will be holding its community openhouse on Tuesday, April 22 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Refreshments, raffle and program exhibits will be on demonstration.

Phi Theta Kappa: Phi Theta Kappa will hold a formal induction ceremony on Wednesday, April 12, in the theater in K-building from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Office of Student Activities: The annual Battle of the Bands will be held on Friday, April 25 in the cafeteria from 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. For more information, contact the Office of Student Activities at 1-0116 on the bridge.

Office of Student Activities: An Easter Egg hunt will be held at the main campus throughout the day of April 16. Easter eggs will be hidden around school and those who find them will win prizes.

Cheer Club: The cheer club will be hosting a Spring Open cheer tournament in J-0006 from 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

Construction Technology and Career Services: The Construction Technology and Career Services will be holding their career night in the T-Concourse on April 16 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Early Childhood Center: On April 15, there will be a field trip to the Ag Department for sheep-shearing with Brad Angus at 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Early Childhood Center: The final Family Fun Night will be on April 22 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The theme of the program will be planning with children, and there will be tips from the Horticulture Department.

Campus Police: The Rape Aggressions Defense Systems will be holding a 12-hour course in self defense tactics to prevent sexual assault. The class is open to women ages 16 and over. Classes are offered on four consecutive Thursdays for four hours each class. Classes are on April 10, 17 and 20 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. There is a one-time fee of \$25 per person. Classes are limited to 10 people per class.

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College board debates tuition increase for JJC

By Stephanie Irvine

Joliet Junior College's bargain tuition rate could become a bargain by the end of this summer because the Board of Trustees is preparing to vote on a possible tuition hike. The proposed tuition increase is expected to follow the trend of two or three dollars at a time. However, the tuition has already been increased each year for the past five years.

JJC's administration feels that a tuition increase is necessary because the costs of labor and materials increase each year. Enrollment has grown by a third since 1997, growing from approximately 9,600 students to over 13,000 students last semester. The enrollment growth and costs of labor and materials, in addition to the reduced funding by the state of Illinois, make the increase seemingly inevitable.

"As these facts are understood it is my opinion that tuition costs will continue to rise over the years," said Dr. Alan Hardersen, vice-president of student services. "Unlike a number of colleges and universities that have in-



Don't worry Pink Baby, your money is going to a good cause!

Photo by Christy Kozol

creased tuition by nearly 20 percent, JJC has been conservative in its plan."

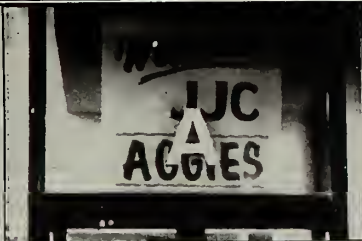
The possibility of a tuition increase occurs when the administration presents the Board of Trustees with a five-year financial planning document that includes an increase of \$2 per credit hour for tuition each year. This document is used to both plan and manage the college's fiscal health and offset the increases in labor and materials.

The Board of Trustees will make the final decision on the increase during one of the upcoming board meetings. The earliest vote on this issue could take place in early May, as there are no plans to vote in April.

If the tuition increase does not pass, many services could be reduced to cut costs. If it does pass, the additional money received will be used to counter the increasing costs the college has incurred each year.

Hardersen also said that from his knowledge, the students have made it known that they expect increases in tuition and would rather have the tuition increased in manageable amounts annually as opposed to giant increases at random.

The earliest the tuition could be increased would be the first session of summer school. Current students will not be affected as any increase would come after the end of the spring 2003 semester.



These doors lead to JJC's world of agriculture

Photo by Adam Farout

Blooming credit hours

By Brian DeLaney

JJC Board of Trustees recently voted on the issue of increasing the credit-hour requirements for achieving an associate's degree in applied science. Those departments affected include agriculture, horticulture and veterinary technician classes.

Some trustees, including student trustee Lavon Pettis, were not pleased with the outcome of the vote.

"My disappointment came from the fact that the curriculum committee worked on this decision for six years under the guidance of Denis Wright," said student trustee, Lavon Pettis. "Once the Board of Trustees became involved, I began to believe that your involvement was micromanaging."

Currently, the curriculum for these classes only requires nine credit hours outside of the department. The requirement will be raised to 12 credit hours in the fall, and ultimately reach 15 hours by the fall of 2004.

The current proposal includes the

introduction of integrated classes, which will combine a variety of general education classes while still involving an agricultural and horticultural element.

If the new proposal is not put into effect by the conclusion of the 2003-04 year, the credit requirements will remain as they are, nine hours.

According to Dr. Jim Ethridge, the chairman and professor for the agriculture and horticulture sciences department, the board of trustees has presented a rather unclear proposal with the so-called integrated classes. In addition, Ethridge also said there is no valid reason why students should not be able to complete general education classes within the agriculture and horticulture departments.

However, Pettis disagreed. "The purpose of general education credits is to show the interdependence of all subjects. I feel that it is almost a disadvantage to the ag students not to have to take 15 credit hours."

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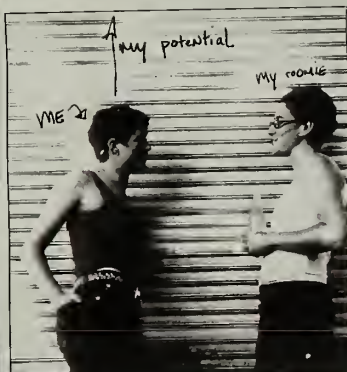
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Students express creativity in JJC art students' juried exhibition

Powerful art displayed in JJC gallery

By Sabrina DiRenzo

Students in the art department have worked their hearts out all semester for the one thing that makes it all worthwhile, the chance to show off their work at JJC's student art show. There were 241 pieces entered in the 2003 JJC Art Exhibition, and 74 works of art by 45 students were selected for this year's show.

The art show is run by art instructor Joe Milosevich, who also selects pieces for the permanent collection that is displayed throughout the school.

"This is one of five of the best art shows we have had in 23 years," said Milosevich.

When asked about what were the qualities he looked for when picking a piece for the permanent collection, he selected pieces based on "recommendations, from other teachers, exceptional pieces, and usually more than



A sample of the art in the JJC Art Students' Juried Exhibition.

Photo by Adam Farcus

one student is selected."

The awards were donated by John and Laura Kingsbury and Dr. Gamil Arida.

The artists featured in the exhibition draw their inspirations from all facets of life.

"I mostly gather my images from the environment around me, things in

everyday life that people take for granted, and elevate them to a higher importance. I also think emotion is a crucial part of art," said Adam Farcus. Another student, Kate Lindgren, talked about the excitement of being in a student art show.

"At first I thought it was the coolest thing in the world because this is my second art show and I felt like I

had accomplished something," said Lindgren.

So, if you're interested in good artwork and want to see what your fellow classmates are doing over in the art department, the artwork from the

2003 JJC Art Exhibition is on display in the Laura Sprague Art Gallery on the second floor of J-building on the main campus.

The artwork will run until April 18.

WINNERS OF THE 2003 JJC'S AWARDS			
Jeff Carlson:	Untitled	Cut Paper	
Steve Dunne:	Strife	Ceramic and Oil	
	Organic Abstraction 002	Paint	
	Organic Abstraction 003	Oil	
Christine Kozol:	Accumulation of Thought	Mixed Media	
Mal Long:	Citra Elegance	14K gold filled and	
		Crain	
Lydia King:	Untitled	Oil Pastel	
Allison Macier:	Root Teapot	Stoneware	
	Untitled	Oil	
Paul Stephenson:	Untitled	Computer-Generated Image	
Nick Taylor:	Reality	Ink	
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People visiting the exhibition.

Photo by Adam Farcus

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Student trustee election time at JJC

By Chris Parker

On April 9 and 10, hundreds of JJC students, staff and faculty members are expected to cast their vote for JJC's new student trustee. The candidates for this year's election are Latasha Traylor from Joliet Central High School and Drew Duzinkas, a graduate from JJC's Early Leavers Program.

This is Traylor's second semester here at JJC. At Joliet Central she had a 3.4 grade point average and served as the school's student council secretary, president of the Project Dove Program (Student Resolution) and class rep from her freshman to senior years.

At JJC, she has been involved with the Black Student Union, student government and Project Achieve's student support services. Traylor says she wants the communication between students and staff and faculty improved.

"We are in this together, we can't keep dodging each other's views. It's just time to talk," she said. "I'm ready to make this thing work!"

Her inspiration for this election is her campaign manager and twin sister Latasha Traylor, who is running for Collegiate Club Council and BSU



Drew and Latasha want your vote!

Photo courtesy of media services

president, respectively.

When asked to name one word that would describe this year's election, candidate Drew Duzinkas said "redemption." Duzinkas believes excellence is not only expected, but for him it is the standard.

A sociology major, Duzinkas says, "I'm ready to bring the community back into this community college." He even had something to say to the students: "It's time to be accountable for yourselves. Aren't you tired of dead-end jobs and the same old maze, let's redeem ourselves."

He says his student involvement and his ability to talk to anyone is what puts him as a powerful prospect for the trustee position. He said he wants

the students to get informed, involved and connected as he did.

"This school is so beautiful and has a lot to offer. I want the students to obtain all the resources as possible while they are here," he said. In his spare time he serves as a groundskeeper here at JJC. His deep interest in nature and it's beautification.

This election is expected to be one like never before, with new online voting procedures. To vote for one of the candidates, go online at www.jjc.edu/vote.

You must enter your initials, social security numbers and birth information before your vote will count. Information is for ID purposes only and this information will not be recorded. Voting will start April 9 at 12:01 p.m. and ends on April 10, 2003, at 7:00 p.m.

Pattie Fine, dean of student development, says she is excited about online elections.

"It's a big change and I'm looking forward for the increase participation." There will be voting booths prepared on the bridge by the Office of Student Services and Activities.

Empowerment 2003

Gender issues addressed at JJC conference

By Jessica Harvey

Educate, organize and make history, was the theme at the 6th annual Empowerment Conference held on March 14 at JJC's main campus.

The topics addressed at the conference included gender inequalities, Title IX, domestic violence and the impact that just one person can have on society.

"We have come a long way, there is no question that we have come a long way," said keynote speaker, Dr. Martha Burk, chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations.

Burk started her speech with an exception from the women's bar association. It stated how in 1953 United Airlines offered executive flights (which included free cocktails and cigars) to men only. These men-only flights were offered until 1970 and were stopped due to increasing pressure that was placed on the airline from the National Organization of Women.

"So, yes we have come a long way, but now we are being asked, 'don't women have too much?'" said Burk.

She then answered her own question by saying that the felt women did have more of their share. She felt that women have more of their share of poverty, minimum wage jobs and home and childcare duties.

She talked about how women are constantly fighting the battle for women's health and reproductive

rights, while pointing out that most health insurance companies pay for Viagra, but it will not pay for birth control pills.

Burk then talked about the issue of domestic violence. Fifty years ago domestic violence was seen as a family matter instead of a crime. The police would wonder what the woman did to deserve a beating if they received a call about such a crime.

The bill to make domestic violence a crime was in Congress for five years before it was passed in 1995.

"The struggle continues," said Burk.

Burk talked about the importance of education. She discussed the fact that it is important to let people know there is a problem and to constantly bring up the issue until it is addressed and resolved.

She also talked about the importance of knowing and understanding history.

"We must know our history in order not to step backward. We must organize to make forward progress," said Burk.

Burk then discussed the sensitive topic of gender discrimination. She talked about Augusta National Golf Club and the fact that it is a men-only club. Burk said that if African Americans were banned from golfing at Augusta (where the PGA Masters is held), people would take immediate action to change the club's admittance policy, but there is not such a reaction when women are banned.

See Empowerment on page 8



Panel member Ruth Swenson addresses the crowd at Empowerment 2003

Photo by Mike O'Brien

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Programs always vary by location.

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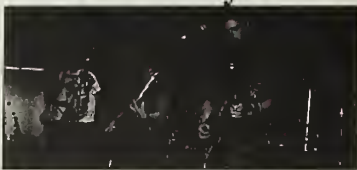
Five local artists raise money and 'rock against racism' at JJC

By Jessica Harvey

On Saturday, March 29, over 250 people gathered in the JJC cafeteria in an effort to hear local artists and fight racism.

This event was sponsored by Action for Freedom and the JJC Anti Racist Organization, two clubs at JJC. The idea for this event came about when members of these organizations decided that something needed to be done to counter the negative impacts of racism.

"There had been some racist things going on in JJC as far as white supremacist organizations in the local



Quarters Only shows us who's boss at the Rock Against Racism.

Photo by Adam Farous

area, and we felt compelled to take action against that," said Patrick

Hamman, president of Action for Freedom.

Empowerment

continued from page 7

Bark ended her address by reading a quote, which stated that the "legacy of fighting for what you believe in and winning lasts a lifetime."

After Bark, the audience heard from a panel of four people from various jobs and backgrounds.

The first speaker was Ruth Sweetser, director of professional learning and business relations in the graduate college at Illinois Institute of Technology. Sweetser started off her lecture by asking the audience to throw out words that described empowerment. The audience yelled words such as respect, independence, knowledge and self-identity.

Sweetser focused on how to get women into the information and technology field and how women need to be included in major decision-making.



Dr. Martha Burk

Photo by Mike O'Brien

Next, Susan McNamara, program specialist with the women's program at Harper College spoke about helping displaced homemakers and single parents. She explained how her department also gives support to women and men who want to enter non-traditional job fields.

After McNamara, Margarite Faulkner, manager of the special

project for the Illinois department of employment security, addressed the crowd. Faulkner wanted to raise awareness of IDES and show how the agency can better serve women, community groups and minorities. She also emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge.

"Whatever you learn, you have to learn to give it back," said Faulkner.

Finally, Brenda Roland, instructional coordinator for displaced homemakers at the JJC city center campus talked about her job working with returning adult students and displaced homemakers. Her department provides things such as financial aid and referred childcare. They also work with men as well.

Faulkner summed up the purpose of the day's message by stating that "empowerment is whatever you make it. The empowerment is within yourself."

Over \$600 was raised, and the money will be distributed to Equality Illinois, American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The event featured an array of talented musicians throughout the night.

The Zany Dne was an intriguing rap act that performed with style and flair, while entertaining the audience.

Reality was a powerful slam poet who wowed the audience.

He addressed issues such as social inequalities and oppression during his emotionally charged performance.

Dearest Fae, a hardcore band that performed with energy and feeling, took the stage with a vengeance. They were incredible musicians that provided the audience with thought-provoking lyrics.

The politically charged rock band, Tamish brought the crowd to their feet with their emotional songs.

Fighting all types of discrimination seemed to be a cause close to the hearts of the band members, and it showed in their lyrics.

The rap group the President kept the crowd grooving with their uptempo rap numbers. And they showed true showmanship during their performance when Drew Durzinskas, representative for Student Government, came onstage to freestyle.

Finally, Quarters Only, an infectious ska band brought the house down. Their unique brand of music had practically the entire audience dancing and wanting more.

The crowd was so pleased with their performance that they asked for an encore.

"I was honestly impressed that many people showed up to support the local scene and the cause. I hope that many people show up to support the battle of the bands," said Jessie Stieff, lead singer of Quarters Only.

M*A*S*H comes to DVD

By: Nathan Bauer

Do you remember those lovable characters such as Hawkeye, Father Mulcahy, Klinger, Trapper and the little but lovable Corporal Radar O'Reilly on the seasons of M*A*S*H?

Well, that crazy medical unit continues their antics in season three of M*A*S*H, which is now available to own on DVD.

This is the season where the lovable Henry Blake (played by McLean

Stevenson) loses his life in the final episode when his plane is shot down while he is returning home to his wife.

There are many humorous episodes as well that provide the best medicine for laughter as those lovable characters get it done in Korea as they operate on the front lines during the Korean War.

M*A*S*H is sure to be remembered for generations to come, so don't hesitate and go buy it now.

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Jamie Motz, Nicci Walshchauser, Jenna Sworzyjaneck and Steve Elmore in a scene from *Suddenly Last Summer*

Photo courtesy of the theater department

Suddenly Last Summer evokes thought

By David Ashby

The Joliet Junior College theater department will present Tennessee Williams' provocative play *Suddenly Last Summer* throughout the weekend of April 10 in the fine arts theater in K-building on the main campus.

The play, which is set during the 1950s, details a young woman who witnesses her cousin Sebastian's tragic death, and his mother's refusal to accept the truth of the circumstances surrounding her son's death.

Entirely one act, Williams uses his characters to relay the realistic and sometimes harsh fictions of family, relationships, mental illness and oppression.

"I hope that people can identify with the characters," said Jenna

Sworzyjaneck, who plays the lead role of Catharine. "Because if they can, then I know that we have done our jobs."

Nicci Walshchauser, who plays Mrs. Venable, commented about her goals for the play.

"I hope that this play would help people seek out things that are worth thinking about and worth doing."

Williams (1911-1983) is one of America's most well-loved playwrights. Some of his most popular plays include *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, both of which earned him Pulitzer Prizes.

"I like the script for *Suddenly Last Summer* because it's the most autobiographical of Williams' writings and I find him a fascinating and complex man," said Nicci Blowers, technical supervisor for the theater.

The cast members of this play include Stworzyjaneck, Walshchauser, Adelia Givens, Steve Elmore, Taya Langlois, Jamie Motz and Kim Koukas. Blowers will serve as the director and the scenic and lighting designer, and Lomije Aniff will serve as stage manager and Amanda Loconole as assistant stage manager.

The play runs on April 10 at 7:30 p.m., on April 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. and on April 13 at 2:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$5 for the general public, \$4 for senior citizens, non-JC students and JIC faculty and staff, and \$2 for JIC students. Audience members are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to exchange at the concession stand for a snack. Local food banks are the recipients of the donations. For reservation information, call (815) 280-2200.

~HOROSCOPES~

BY

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Libra- Just some advice: if your arm turns green, get it looked at.



Taurus- Hey, Mr. Funny Bunny, someone loves you. :-)



Scorpio- It will be important that you have good hygiene and wash your hares.



Gemini- Your ears will come off the next time someone pulls on them.



Sagittarius- Do not underestimate the power of the bald man's head. Ohh, shiny.



Cancer- Watch out! Because it's not duck season.



Capricorn- Be careful, you swingin' jack rabbit, you!



Leo- Use cold wash (with bleach) and tumble dry, for your tail is made of cotton.



Aquarius- Don't hang around in top hats, you might get turned into a pigeon or a hanky.



Virgo- When people say that you look good in low lights, it's not necessarily a good thing.



Pisces- Just because the Red Hot Chili Peppers can pull off the sock look, it doesn't mean you should.

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April 9, 2003

Comedic blockbuster *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* not just another 'chick flick'

Andrew Hrbac

"Chick flicks" are not usually a part of my forte, but even I have to admit that *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days* was pretty darn good. I was not overly thrilled about going to see it at first, but in the long run it was worth the money.

How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days is a romantic comedy that places Andi (Kate Hudson) and Ben (Matthew McConaughey) in an awkward situation.

Andi is a columnist for a new up-and-coming ladies magazine. In an attempt to prove to her boss that she has what it takes to write serious columns,

as opposed to her usual columns that deal with fashion faux pas, she must first write an advice column entitled "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days." This column will focus on Andi meeting a guy and doing all the wrong things that will result in the guy leaving in 10 days.

Ben, on the other hand, is an advertising executive who is competing against two women for a diamond advertisement.

The women feel that they should get the job because they know what women want. In order to prove to his boss that he knows women, he makes a bet that he can make a woman fall in love with him in 10 days.

If he wins the bet, he gets the project. Of course, Andi and Ben's missions both start on the same day.

I know the story line sounds a little hokey, but it plays itself out in a cute and fun way. McConaughey and Hudson have what seems to be natural chemistry together on the screen.

It was hilarious watching Ben struggle to keep his cool as Andi continued to be persistent in her attempt to drive Ben nuts.

As a guy, there were times that I



Kate and Matthew ham it up

had a hard time getting through all of the horrible things that Andi was doing, such as ruining Ben's poker night. But nevertheless, it was very funny to watch.

Obviously, I wouldn't recommend this movie for a group of guys to see

on some idle Saturday, but I do suggest that it would make a perfect movie to see on a date. So guys, suck it up and ask your lady friend to go see it. Just remember that Kate Hudson is in it, and she alone is well worth the price of admission.



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No kids allowed in NBA draft

The NBA should fix the draft issue quickly

By Adam Fox

Ask Chicago Bulls General Manager Jerry Krause about having two 19-year-olds be the "veteran core" of his team, and he will probably just sigh.

There has been a movement in recent years to draft players more and more on potential than on experience and proven ability. Drafting potential became the thing to do in the 2001 draft, when high school players went number one, two, four and eight. The number one overall pick, Kwame Brown, who went to the Washington Wizards, was the first high school player ever taken at number one.

The following year marked a new change in philosophy for NBA general managers, foreign kids. With Yao Ming entering the NBA with the Houston Rockets, he marked the explosion of foreign prospects to come into the NBA. Players such as Nene Hilario, 19; Nikoloz Tskitshvili, 18; Bojan Vucelja, 22; Jiri Welsch, 22 and Nenad Krstic, 19. Has the NBA turned into a greenhouse for kids with potential?

This year's story is no different. The consensus top two picks are LeBron James, 18, and Darko Milicic, 17, but they are only the tip of the iceberg. If Commissioner David Stern has his way, Stern wants to implement a change to the draft rules, 20 years and up.

As it stands now, American high school players are eligible for the draft after their high school senior class graduation, and international players must be 18 by draft night. But if Stern's new rule passes, players will have to be 20-years-old and up, no exception.

This means that this year's draft will have a torrent of underage kids coming in just so they will not have to wait. Players like James Milicic: Syracuse's Carmelo Anthony, 19; and Georgia Tech's Chris Bosh, 19. There are also high school players like Kederick Perkins, Luol Deng, Charlie



Consensus top pick LeBron James goes for a slam dunk.
Photo courtesy of www.nbadraft.net

Villanueva, James Lang, Travis Outlaw and Kris Humphries and international players like France's Mickael Pietrus, Greece's Sofoklis Schortsanides, 17 and Yugoslavia's Kosta Perovic, 18, along with countless others.

So, if this rule were to come about, this year's draft would consist mostly of 18 and 19-year-olds because they would rather come out now instead of wait the extra year or two. While this change in draft eligibility may weaken the following drafts, it will be good for the NBA in the long run.

While not to say that college is necessary for everyone, there are some players that are special enough that do not need it. Players like Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett, Tracy McGrady and maybe even James. But for every special player that skips college, there are countless others like Leon Smith and Al Harrington that would have developed their skill and character better while attending a university. College would make the draftees overall more ready to play in the big man's game, known as the NBA.

By Andrew Hrubec

The men's tennis team is made up of seven players, with six of them being freshman.

After the first two meets of the season, the Wolves fell to Elgin Community College 0-7 and Illinois Valley Community College 0-9.

With only four players available to compete, the Wolves are struggling with a lack of depth on the court.

"All of our guys are learning as

we go here," said Coach Tim Vanderwall on JJC's website. "I'm excited to see how we improve as the season goes on."

With the start of the season just underway, the Wolves will now play four of their next eight matches at home.

Because they only have four available players, the Wolves are forced to forfeit two singles matches and one doubles match.

Brandon Tucker and Tim Seidler

are the strong points on this small team. Tucker fell in the first match of the season 6-4 and 6-1, while Seidler finished 6-2 and 6-2.

In the second match of the season, Tucker and Seidler both lost 6-3 and 6-3 in their two matches, respectively, to their opponents from Illinois Valley Community College.

"We have a lot to work on, but it'll be interesting to see our young guys improve with every match," said Vanderwall on the JJC website.

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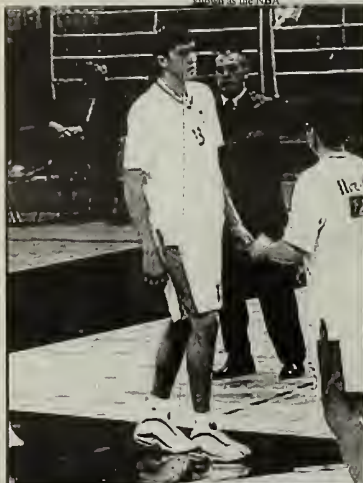
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Yugoslavia's 17-year-old Darko Milicic is one of this year's top picks.

Photo courtesy of www.nbadraft.net

April 9, 2003

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Wolves baseball off to a 'howling' start

Wolves continue to dominate the field

By Andrew Hrubec

Feb. 28 marked opening day for the Joliet Junior College Wolves baseball team. With a fairly young team that contains 14 freshman and nine sophomores, the Wolves started the season with a fairly posting a 7-0 record, all of which came at home. But, the Wolves didn't favor as well on their first road trip of the year. Playing 12 straight games on the road, the Wolves lost their first four and were outscored 13-56 in those games.

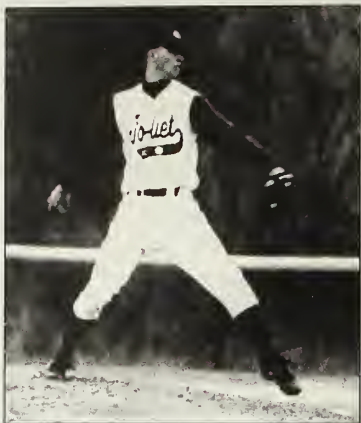
Behind the bats of freshman Erin Satterlee, Scott Hodgson and Andy Radak, the Wolves were able to hold off Columbia State College in the first game of a double header to earn their first road win of the season.

The Wolves ended their road trip by beating Waubesa College in both games of a double header on March 23. Those two wins put Joliet at 12-7 on the year and 5-7 on the road.

The comfort of playing at home after a long road trip, and winning two in a row on the road, didn't seem to favor the Wolves as they lost to South Suburban College for their first home loss of the season. With the score tied going into the top of the ninth, Keith Pfeiffer allowed three hits and two runs that the Wolves were unable to make up in the bottom of the ninth.

Entering the month of April, the Wolves posted a 17-9 record, and an outstanding 12-2 record at home.

On April 1, the Wolves played a close game against Kankakee Community College. Behind the bat of Erin Satterlee, the Wolves were victorious in a 4-3 ballgame. Satterlee broke a 2-2 tie in the seventh inning with a two-run single.



Freshman Larry Wallen throws the heat

With a loss to Aurora College's JV team and a win against Moraine Valley Community College, the Wolves are now 19-10 on the season and 3-1 in conference play. Leading the way for the Wolves this season is sophomore Robert Sullivan with a .494 batting average and 22 RBIs, followed by Erin Satterlee with a .400 batting average and a team high 32 RBIs. Freshman pitchers Ben Dorelli (4-1) and Nick Curry (4-0) lead the team in wins, and pitchers Chas Dobes and Rob Winter remain undefeated on the season go-

ing 2-0 and 3-0 respectively.

"I'm not disappointed with where we are, but we've got to fix the little things," said Coach Wayne King on the season. "Our top four players are doing their job."

With a team batting average of .312, and a solid pitching staff, the Wolves appear to have what it takes to scare some teams. There's no question that playing at home appears to favor Joliet, and as long as they continue to play near 500 ball on the road, the team will be remain a contender

Softball team has high hopes

By Adam Fox

This season for the Wolves has been an up-hill battle. First they started their new season with a new coach in Ed Sutter. But he had to leave due to personal reasons and was replaced by former coach Dan Murphy. And secondly, the team continued to struggle on the field.

Currently, the Lady Wolves are 3-13 overall and 1-1 in the North Central Community College Conference (N4C).

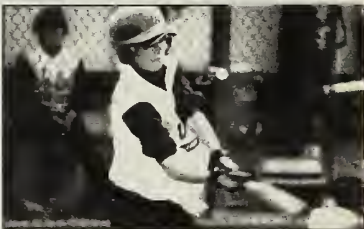
At a double-header versus the College of DuPage on April 1, the Wolves looked like two different teams. In the first game, the Lady Wolves shut out the Chaparrals 1-0. But for the second game they got shel-

In the first game, pitcher Andrea Wright, currently one of the most dominate players on the team, allowed only two hits while striking out two in seven innings.

Also, working hard was sophomore Tara Walden and freshmen Bridgette Abranowicz. They combined for three hits, one run and one RBI.

On April 3, the Lady Wolves recorded two more losses in a double header against Morton College.

The Panthers triumphed 3-8 and 4-2. Leading the way for the Wolves were Walden, Caitlyn Cronkite and Stephanie Sloman. The trio combined for seven hits, three RBIs and two stolen bases.



Freshman Stephanie Sloman attacks the pitch

Photo by Adam Fox

ATHLETES OF THE ISSUE



Robert Sullivan

Robert Sullivan is a 6'4" powerhouse on JJC's baseball team. Last season Sullivan posted a .359 batting average in 64 plate appearances. This season, Sullivan is leading the Wolves baseball team in batting averages, hitting a phenomenal .494 with 22 RBIs. In a game against the College of DuPage, Sullivan compiled four singles, two stolen bases and scored one run to help defeat their conference opponent. Sullivan is a product of Lockport, and along with playing baseball, he was also a member of the national champion football team here at Joliet Junior College.



Tara Walden

Playing third base for the Lady Wolves softball team is sophomore Tara Walden. Walden, a product of Reed-Custer, has been the life support of the team. With a batting average of .333, Walden has proven that she can't be taken lightly when she steps up to the plate. After 14 games, she has 15 hits and has driven in 10 runs. Also, with three doubles and a triple on the season, Walden shows that she has the ability to change the game at any point with one swing of the bat. With 19 games left in the season, Walden looks to improve on those numbers and lead her team to a winning season.

By Andrew Hrubec

It might be...it could be...is it the time?

By Andrew Hrubec

Baseball season is upon us, and as a Cub fan, I have only one thought in mind, "maybe next year." In order to reserve my outlook about this upcoming season, I feel that lowering my expectations might help. After all, they are the Chicago Cubs.

Sanny Sosa will put up his usual numbers this season, but the key factor to the success of the Cubs is Moises Alou. If Alou can stay healthy, he has the potential to hit 35 homers, bat .315 and drive in over 100 runs.

In a trade that sent Todd Hundley packing his bags for LA, the Cubs received Eric Karros and Mark Grudzielanek. With Bobby Hill being sent back down to AAA Iowa, it looks as though Grudzielanek will be receiving the starting nod at second. In the meantime, Karros will platoon in at first behind Cubs rookie sensation Hee Seop Choi. Grudzielanek and Karros help add depth to an already deep bench.

The Cubs also acquired Troy

Leary, Ramon Martinez, Damien Miller and Paul Bako. Bako and Miller both have their fair share of time behind the plate.

That big question marks for the season are Corey Patterson and Mark Bellhorn. Corey Patterson started out strong last season, but it fell apart shortly before the all-star break.

Patterson needs to play consistent and provide the spark that the Cubs need as a leadoff hitter.

Bellhorn is coming off of a career season. Last year, Bellhorn was expected to be much more than a platoon

player, but after the Baylor regime collapsed, Bruce Kimm took the helm and made Bellhorn a starter. After coming off the bench for half the season, Bellhorn was able to post career bests in all of the major stats which including 27 homers, .258 batting average, 56 RBIs and 86 runs. Bellhorn needs to continue improving and post similar numbers to last season, and as a starter this year, he has the opportunity to do so.

It would be nice to think that the Cubs have the potential to be the Cinderella story that the Arizona Diamondbacks were in 2001 or the Anaheim Angels were in 2002. Both teams

failed to make the playoffs the season prior to reaching the World Series.

With some hesitation, I can honestly say that this might be the year. The Cubs actually have the athletes to take them to the fall classic. They have a dominant pitching staff, solid hitters in the middle of the lineup, and a strong bench.

The additions of Mike Renlinger and Dave Veres help add depth to a dismal bullpen and don't forget about Cubs new skipper Dusty Baker.

If the Cubs can turn the tides from last year's miserable 67-95 record, look for the Chinese calendar to proclaim this the year of the Cub.



Sanny sticks it to ya!

Photo courtesy of www.cubs.mlb.com



April 30, 2003

A Joliet Junior College Student Publication

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Joliet police unite with JJC to improve security

By Chris Berger

The Joliet Police Department plans to work more closely with JJC to improve security at Centennial Commons following an armed home invasion on April 7.

According to Deputy Chief Fred Hayes, the city police are working with JJC President J. D. Ross and the campus police to increase security at the complex. Their plan includes more thorough screening of applicants, improving access control of area and increasing visibility with more patrols, which consists of supplemental patrols by the campus police.

These measures are designed to help the Joliet police address what Hayes describes as a "disproportionate amount of calls" coming from the Centennial Commons residential complex.

During the April 7 incident, two men, one armed with a silver semi-automatic handgun, forced their way into a residence at Centennial Commons and made off with \$100. The robbery, which took place at 1:15 a.m., marks the first victim's report of a firearm on the property of the complex, according to Hayes.

The invaders, one disguised in a black ski mask and gloves, knocked on the door of the residence and asked for the tenant, Andre Boone, by name. When the woman who answered the door told the invaders that he wasn't



Centennial Commons was the site of an armed robbery on April 7.

Photo by Adam Farcus

home, the two men forced their way into the apartment. The woman, Tasha Knight, witnessed the masked suspect open a kitchen drawer and remove \$100 before she retreated to a bedroom with her child. The police were called

when the resident returned home later that evening. No one was injured.

The first invader, who asked for the resident by name, is described as approximately 20 years of age, 5-6, 150 pounds and wearing a grey hooded

sweatshirt. The second invader, who was armed, is described as 6-1, 200 pounds and age unknown. Hayes points out the fact that the invaders were apparently familiar with the victim and his apartment, suggesting that the sus-

pects had been there before.

Speech team takes home awards

By Justin Johnson

The Joliet Junior College speech team had a strong performance at the Phi Rho Pi National Convention and Tournament in Portland, Ore. The tournament is a weeklong event, held from April 14 through April 20.

Jamie Motz was awarded a silver medal for his performance in the program of oral interpretation. He is the first JJC medalist since 1987. To get to the final round, Motz advanced past 96 other students by earning two first-place rankings and one second-place ranking in the preliminary rounds. He was one of 11 students who advanced to the finals. Jade Phillips, Taya Langlois and Kevin Schaefer missed breaking into the semi finals by one point.

JJC had seven students entered in several events. Each student competed in three preliminary rounds against five other competitors per round.

"With nearly 600 students participating from over 70 schools, this is the largest speech team tournament in the United States," said Bobbette Wolesensky, a speech teacher at JJC and sponsor of the speech team.

The students were rated from one to six by the judges. When the ratings are added, the lowest rating determines the top competitors that will advance into the semi final round. In the semi-final round, three judges independently rank each competitor, and again the best combined rankings advance into

the final round. In the final round, competitors receive gold or silver medals based on their ratings from a three-judge panel.

"Our students did very well this week, I am proud of their efforts. We are already excited about next year because five of the seven students who participated will be back. We are looking forward to a very successful speech team," said Wolesensky.

Goeff Arndt competed in prose interpretation and drama interpretation. Kevin Schaefer competed in prose interpretation, program of oral interpretation and duo interpretation. Steve Elmore competed in poetry interpretation, drama interpretation and duo interpretation. Jamie Motz competed in prose interpretation, program of oral interpretation and duo interpretation. Jenna Stworzyjanek competed in poetry interpretation, program of oral interpretation and duo interpretation. Taya Langlois competed in prose interpretation, drama interpretation and duo interpretation.

Jade Phillips competed in poetry interpretation, drama interpretation and duo interpretation.

Phi Rho Pi is a national forensics honorary society for speech students attending two-year colleges. Funding for the trip came from a combination of beverage grant funds, JJC Foundation funds, fine arts department funds and Phi Rho Pi club funding through the Collegiate Club Council.

JJC College Bowl Team takes 2nd

JJC's College Bowl Team captured second place at the state finals at Illinois Central College in East Peoria on April 25. JJC scored a total of 945 points and won four out of its five matches against the other community colleges that participated.

The College Bowl Team, which is referred to as "the varsity sport of the

mind," competes in tournaments that allow students to test their academic knowledge and recall against other participating colleges.

The team members included captain John Evans, Mike Hanzinger, Michelle Lorenzen and Brad Schaller. The adviser is English professor Bill Yarrow.

JJC choir singers head for Carnegie Hall

By David Ashby

Thirty-three members of the JJC Chamber Singers and the JJC Chorale were selected to perform with members of 11 other choirs from around the country at the world-renowned Carnegie Hall in New York City on May 25. The singers will perform two major works by English composer John Rutter.

The group will arrive in New York City on May 22, and after three extensive rehearsals, Rutter will conduct the 250-person choir at Carnegie Hall. The two songs they will be performing are Gloria and Te Deum.

Though each student is paying most of his or her's expenses, the trip

is receiving financial assistance from the Office of Student Activities and the JJC Foundation Awards for Excellence.

The Chamber Singers and the Chorale will be performing both of Rutter's works at the Tunes and Tastes concert, which is being held on Saturday, May 10 at 7 p.m. An \$8 donation will cover admission and a buffet of desserts created by culinary arts students.

All of the proceeds for this event will go to the Douglas F. Osborn Choral and Vocal Scholarship Fund. Osborn was a former director of choral and vocal music at JJC who died from a heart attack in March 2001. For reservations for the Tunes and Tastes, call (815) 280-2223 by May 7.



JJC students will soon grace Carnegie Hall.

Photo courtesy of www.fordham.edu.

Blazer View

People's opinions, choices and lifestyles need to be respected

As the 2002-2003 school year comes to a close, we here at the Blazer feel that one issue in particular needs to be addressed and that is the topic of intolerance towards others. The prejudice and disrespect shown towards others in today's world concerning one's opinions, choices or lifestyle are not only ignorant and uncalled for, but can also be very dangerous.

Emotions and opinions are currently running high in this country concerning the war with Iraq. This fact was certainly proven true during the March 12 peace rally held on JJC's bridge. Whenever an unpopular opinion was expressed during the open mic session, the speakers were met with a barrage of disrespectful boos and obnoxious insults. In fact, one of the Blazer's staff members was cursed out by a passerby, for, well, just standing there silently and listening to the event.

Disrespecting and insulting people who have differing views than you is a complete abomination. Honestly, what good comes out of it? You just end up looking bad, and you make an enemy.

The best thing you could do is actually sit quietly and listen to what the person who holds a differing opinion has to say. Either two things could happen this way: you might see a side of the story that was blind to you before and become better educated on the subject, or your current opinion could be crystallized by the opponent's weak argument.

This intolerance towards others not only extends to different people's opinions but also towards others' choices and lifestyles. A student at JJC was volunteering at a retirement home when she was asked to leave an area of the building because she was upsetting some of the residents. Was this member harassing the residents or

performing some obscenity? No. The reason the residents were insulted was because she had a nose ring.

Certainly there are qualities about people that we encounter in our day-to-day lives that may seem frightening and bizarre. These could range from exotically colored hair, weird clothes, cigarette smoking, fingernail biting and body piercings. Sure, all of these characteristics have extensive stereotypical assumptions that are popular in our society (for example, all people with blue, green or pink hair can be considered by our society's standards to be punk teens who are hooked up on some narcotic). But are these stereotypes true? The answer is no, and the only way you will be able to escape these assumptions is by talking to these people who offend you so much. You might actually learn something new.

Did the residents of that retirement home show tolerance towards the JJC student? No, they did not. They immediately made a stereotypical assumption about her from the presence of the nose ring, and told her to stay away, even though she was performing a civic duty to help others in need.

The bottom line is that many people in this country (and in the entire world, for that matter) are becoming too sensitive and too intolerant towards one another. In this time of war, terrorism and a poor economy it is quite obvious that many people are tense and uneasy. But that is no excuse. Intolerance among our fellow men and women can lead to disastrous consequences. Just take a look at groups like the Ku Klux Klan, the Nazis in Germany during the 1930s or even Al Qaeda. These narrow-minded people were (and are) intolerant of others, and the results of this ignorance has led to catastrophes of horrific proportions (for example, the Holocaust) and the



Sept. 11 attacks).

So, the next time you see somebody expressing an opinion that is different than yours or you see somebody who dresses differently, don't just point the finger and start insulting and

criticizing them. Talk to them and listen to them in a polite and respectful manner. You might actually learn something. If we continue to be intolerant of one another and if we do not learn that people in this country have the right to

have their own opinions, make their own choices and have the right to live with these decisions peacefully, no matter how unpopular they are, then the terrorists and all of our foreign enemies have already won the battle.

Blazer 'blazes it up' at ICCJA conference

JJC's Blazer staff won several awards at the Illinois Community College Journalism Association annual conference at Western Illinois University on April 25.

In the tri-weekly and monthly category, the Blazer placed fourth for Overall Excellence.

Members of the Blazer staff

brought home individual awards as well. A first-place award went to Matt Furlane for an arts story; a second-place award went to Megan Gilman for a sports feature; a third-place award went to Jessica Harvey for an editorial; a fourth-place award went to Jessica Harvey for a news article; and honorable mention awards went to Chrissy

Kozol for a computer graphic and David Ashby for an opinion article.

Other colleges attending and placing at the ICCJA competition were Rock Valley College, College of DuPage, Moraine Valley Community College and Wright College. Fifteen different schools submitted 271 entries for this contest.

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April 30, 2003

What happens now? Physical Plant makes tough decisions

By Laurie Kaurzlic

The biggest setback that the physical plant has to face now that JJC's April 1 referendum was shot down by voters is that school repaimen will have to use old equipment and make more frequent repairs with used parts.

"There really aren't any replacement options, so we have to make do with what we have," says Physical Plant Director Seaver Tarulis.

Right now the areas that need the most work are the elevators, underground utilities, heating, cooling and signage throughout the campus, which are currently being repaired.

Setting priorities are key in figuring out how to work with what they have, says Tarulis.

"I look at the school as a building envelope," he said, referring to outside protection.

This safeguard includes the roofs, walls, windows and doors. Overall, \$1.2 million dollars in roofing needs replacement.

So far, one-third of the roofs have been replaced, with another one-third on its way. Some windows, especially in the cafeteria, need replacing. However, they will not be able to replace as many as needed.

Equipment that is in need of replacing includes the entire bulk of the underground utility system, major components of elevators and the hot water distribution system.



It's construction time YET AGAIN at JJC

Photo by Adam Farcus

"We really don't have any safety considerations, other than sunken sidewalks and tripping hazards," says Tarulis.

In the future, the physical plant will have to anticipate and prioritize their tasks and evaluate their critical needs.

"We're kind of hopeful that things won't be bad," says Tarulis, "but we're just going to have to do more patchwork than we'd like to."

The physical plant currently has two state-funded sources of money, in addition to its regular budget from the college. The funding that comes from the state is \$250,000 a year. There is also Life Safety money from the state that helps provide the money for major replacements.

A future project that is being planned is installing kiosks outside of entrances to the buildings, which will give information about locations and major departments within the campus. They are hoping to install about one or two per year.

Also, they are looking at a computer-based management system that will be considered at the board's next meeting. This system will catalog all the equipment on campus and give thorough information on it, including how old it is to better determine the life expectancy.

"Although this was a major setback, we just have to prioritize our critical needs," says Tarulis.

Student government goes to Springfield



Members of the student government pose with Senator Lawrence Walsh.

Photo courtesy of student government

MAP grant and adult education among lobby issues addressed

By David Ashby

Members of the student government traveled to Springfield on April 16 to lobby the Illinois Congress about issues concerning JJC.

The event, Community College Student Lobby Day, gave students from across the state to travel to the state capital and discuss issues with legislators that affect their lives.

The two topics in particular that was on the student government's agenda included the MAP grant and the continuation of state funds to wards adult education.

The MAP grant is designed to help students who are attending college for more than four years. Adult education covers programs that allows adults to study for their GE.D.'s or learn english as a second language.

Because of the country's stagnant economy and Illinois' financial crisis, these two programs risk losing their funding from the state budget.

"We were asking them to stop

making cuts across the board," said student government member Brooke Skeen.

JJC students got a chance to meet with Sen. Lawrence Walsh, who, according to Skeen, gave them all the time to discuss issues that are important to them.

Walsh even took the student government down to the floor of the busy and sometimes chaotic state senate floor during an executive session.

"Our students were able to relay personal stories about themselves so that they understand that their decisions affect people," said Anissa Jones, director of student activities.

Two students, former student trustee Lavon Pettis and student trustee elect Drew Duzinkas, even got the chance to meet Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

According to Skeen, one of the most important accomplishments that the student government accomplished in Springfield was helping to kill a bill that would have forced JJC's Renaissance Center to lose its liquor license.

Those who attended included Pettis, Duzinkas, Mike Gallo, Brooke Skeen, Latesha and Lausha T aylor, Don Terry, Chris Parker and Jones.

News Briefs

Fine Arts Department: The JJC Art Faculty Exhibition begins May 1 in the Laura A. Sprague Art Gallery, located on the second floor in J-Building. Regular gallery hours are 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Fine Arts Department will present 12 different one-act plays in the Theatre at the Fine Arts Department's Spring Festival of One-Act Performances are on Thursday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m. and Friday, May 2, at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The Fine Arts Department will present a 25th Anniversary Concert featuring the JJC Chorus, Band, and the Fine Arts Theatre on Saturday, May 4, at 7 p.m. The JJC Chorus will perform "Tune, and I Love in the Fine Arts Theatre on Saturday, May 10, at 7 p.m. A spring concert featuring the JJC Percussion Ensemble will take place on Friday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. The JJC and Minooka High School Jazz Bands will be performing in the Fine Arts Theatre on Friday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Chess Club: The JJC Chess Club will be hosting a chess simulatenous event with "the Chess Master" on Saturday, May 24, from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. in room J-0006.

Final Exam: Final exam week will begin Monday, May 12, through May 16. Exam on May 11.

Multicultural Transfer Center: Earn a bachelor of business administration degree at the JJC Main Campus and learn more about admissions with Robert Muris College on June 10 from 2 until 4 p.m. and on July 15 from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. in room C-2001. Call Angie Caldwell at 815-467-1737 for more information.

Registration: Fall 2003 priority registration for current students will proceed from now until May 4. Priority dates are determined by credit hours earned.

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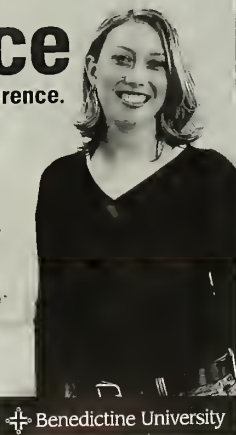
"I had planned to attend Benedictine University right after high school, but my plans changed and I attended community college for two years."

Kate said "I worked with an admissions counselor at Benedictine while I was still attending community college to make sure that all my courses would transfer. My transition to Benedictine was as easy as they said it would be."

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April 30, 2003

Wellness week heals JJC



Reiki practitioners at the wellness fair

Photo by Adam Farcus

Seminars, fairs and fun at this year's event

By Jen Holderfield

Tuesday, April 8 kicked off Wellness Week 2003. Wellness Week is an annual event that Joliet Junior College provides for its students and the people of the community. It is filled with lots of fun, free seminars and even a fair.

"The Wheel of Wellness" free seminars were held on Tuesday and Thursday. These seminars included topics of spirituality, health and gender.

The seminars held this year were "Why Weight?" presented by Pam Het-Dobricky; "Diet Pills: Artificial Weight Loss," presented by Lori Fomeris; "The Great Debate: To Believe or Not To Believe," presented by Phil Nordquist; "Feed the Flow," presented by Linda Herrick; Reiki Master; "Mind, Body Approaches for H.W.," presented by Patrick Tinken and Professor M.S., LCP; "Breaking the Silence," presented by Sergeant Jeff Hanford, Illinois State Police; and "Gender Talk: He says, She says," pre-

sented by Anissa Jones, director of student activities.

On Wednesday, April 9, JJC held its 8th Annual Wellness & Volunteer Fair. The fair was located at the main campus on the concourse from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

This event was sponsored by the office of holistic wellness at JJC and was coordinated by Pam Dilday. As students walked the concourse, they could see demonstrations, get company and agency information, sample and buy some products, sign up to volunteer and get a free massage.

Vendors who attended this event included AFLAC, A.A. District 31, AIDS Ministry, American Red Cross, Arthritis Foundation, Breaking the Silence, Career Services, Catholic Charities-Daybreak Shelter and Christian Youth Center, among many others.

Pam Dilday was asked about the success of this year's fair compared to last year's, and she said that the attendance was better this year, which she attributes to the high enrollment.

Dilday also said that next year she plans to have many interactive booths because students seem to enjoy them more.

QUESTION OF THE ISSUE: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SUMMERTIME MEMORY?



Chris Wesby
Pete Dunbar

"When we got invited to Kobe Bryant's Adidas camp for excelling in basketball."



Emily Sutter

"Last summer I moved to New York City and for my birthday, I went to Bungalow 8, which is an exclusive nightclub in Manhattan."



Jen Williams

"Meeting my wonderful boyfriend and pool parties with my girlfriends."



Oscar Maddox

"Going to a free concert and seeing Jagged Edge in Gary, Ind."



Randeey Floyd

"I went to California to meet my pen pal who I had written to for nine years but never met. We went to get piercings at Annibus Worbus."



Alexon Triplett

"Going to the Bud Billiken parade."

Photos and copy by Jessica Harvey

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Priority registration hits JJC

By Margaret Boehle

There's something new at JJC: priority registration. This program allows students with the highest number of credit hours already earned, to register earlier for classes. Its purpose is to provide better service to JJC students and provide registration in a more relaxed atmosphere, according to Kim Deckus, the dean of enrollment services.

The types of registration utilized in this process are the online WebAdvisor, at www.jjc.edu, and touch-tone registration. For Web Advisor, the student must have a username and pin/password, which can be obtained by signing up for the service.

To register with a touch-tone phone, the student must have course numbers ready, as there is no in-person help available.

"There are definite advantages to using an automated system," said Deckus. "First of all, students are better prepared when it is time to register. Registration assistants often get used as academic advisors, a job they are not prepared to do."

Terr Maffeo, registration supervisor, said, "We are always trying to improve our processes and encourage the use of new technology. Historically, the first day

of registration was a rough one, and students would stand in line for hours. Sometimes the line would stretch across the bridge and into the concourse. Telephone lines were equally busy."

When asked whether she believed priority registration to be an improvement, Deckus said, "Anytime you can eliminate long lines and control the flow of an operation it is an improvement. As we continue to do it more, it will get even better."

Of course, there are always two sides to every story. The main fear on campus about priority registration is that it is more difficult for new students—and those with fewer credit hours—to get into the courses they need to. As one student said, "Priority registration is like a kick in the teeth to those below it."

However, overall the process seems to have been accepted. Those with the hours needed find that it is nice to have registration over and done with and have been able to get into the classes they need to graduate.

Diannaha Tiebur, a student who has used priority registration for the last two semesters, said, "I think priority registration is a great thing."

Many students might not be in some of the classes that they are taking or need if priority registration was not available."

Out with the old, in with the new

By Margaret Boehle

Drew Duzinkas was elected the new JJC Student Trustee in a tightly contested vote on April 9 and 10. Duzinkas bested his opponent, Latesha Taylor by a slim 145-141 vote. A total of 292 votes were cast.

Duzinkas was very impressed by his opponent's campaign. However, he feels that there was not a good turnout of voters overall and the election was almost a toss-up because of that.

Duzinkas, who plans to transfer to a four-year institution and major in sociology after he earns his associate's degree, says that he wanted to get involved with campus politics and take a shot at running things.

Lavon Pettis, the current trustee, believes her term was a successful one and that the most important thing she was able to accomplish was to embrace the ideal of the community college.

However, she finds that because the term is only a year long, once the student trustee becomes comfortable and gets his or her feet wet, the term ends. She also says that Duzinkas has to think long-term how his decisions that will affect everyone, not just a set population.

Duzinkas agrees, "It's not a one-year process. You make a lot of decisions that won't affect you."

Duzinkas has a great deal of respect for the former trustee, saying he admires her peace initiative and her down-to-earth common sense.

"The level of involvement and devotion she brought to the position has definitely helped," he said.

Pettis, who plans to double major



Lavon Pettis and Drew Duzinkas with Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich.

Photo courtesy of student government

in psychology and sociology at Southern Illinois University, is very involved in school and state politics. She serves as vice-chair on the Illinois Board of Higher Education and plans to become involved in the student government at SIU. Pettis does not plan to permanently leave community colleges. She hopes to eventually become a cabinet member of one—after ten or so years of teaching, of course.

But what about the role of politics in their future? Pettis sees herself as a lobbyist and that politics will definitely play a role in her future. Duzinkas, however, said, "I don't know if that would be a career I would like to pursue yet."

Of Pettis' term, he said, "She's opened a lot of doors." He plans to make good use of these doors in the coming year.



JJC student Kevin Keaton gets down with priority registration.

Photo by Adam Farcus

Aggies reaping awards

By Justin Johnson

The Joliet Junior College agriculture team completed a successful year by winning the 2003 National PAS Conference. The competition of 400 students was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on March 5 through March 8.

The overall livestock specialist team consisting of Aaron Drebaugh, Joe Blackford and Jeff Landers won the national contest. Individually, Drebaugh placed first and Blackford placed second. Other place winners were Johnnie Van Riper, who placed first in the livestock production employment interview area, Marc Bauer, who placed second in the agriculture equipment employment interview contest, and Vicki Heath, who placed second in the forestry and natural resources interview contest.

The overall livestock team received \$300 for their first-place finish, and Aaron Drebaugh received \$100 for his overall first-place finish. The efforts of all 12 students helped to produce an overall first place finish for the JJC agriculture team.

"These tournaments help students to further develop leadership and professionalism skills, as well as help



The love of plants fuels many aggies.

Photo by Chrissy Keal

develop many new friends and contacts," said Tammy Miller, the advisor and sponsor of the team.

Twelve students earned the right to compete in the national tournament by each receiving a top-three finish in the state tournament held in February. These students competed in four different events: overall livestock specialist, dairy specialist, crops and soil specialist, and employment interview.

The competitors are judged on their overall knowledge of their field, as well as their response to specific problems and occurrences that can occur within the application of that particular field.

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April 30, 2003

page 7

DiFranco and Evanesence 'evolve' without falling



Evanesence
Fallen
**** 1/2
By Rosalie Lewis

Who would've guessed that anything good could come from Arkansas? As startling as it seems, Arkansas finally has something to be proud of: Evanesence. They arrived in a whirlwind thanks to a little publicity boost—two of their songs ("Immortal" and "Bring Me to Life") were featured on the Daredevil soundtrack.

"Bring Me To Life," their explosive first single, is hovering right above the top of rock and alternative charts, and their newest album, *Fallen*, debuted at number seven on the Billboard 200.

Upon listening to this CD for the first time, I felt like I'd been transported to another world. At times I felt like a child listening to a bedtime story that went over my head, but I kept listening because I loved the voice of the storyteller.

At other times, I felt like a psychologist listening to a patient having an epiphany. And then there were moments when I thought I was hearing an angelic voice backed by an extra-terrestrial band.

Triumph and tears blend together on this moody soundscape. Lead singer Amy Lee captures so many emotions in her ethereal voice, soaring, growl-

ing and whispering as she draws the listener in. She's accompanied by searing guitars, a stark piano and the occasional choir, which makes for a truly haunting, other-worldly feeling.

If I were to list the outstanding songs, I'd have to mention every one on the album. But I do have some personal favorites. "Haunted" is a gothic-rock anthem that is both frightening and majestic.

Lyrical, I love "Hello," a piano-driven ballad containing the line, "I'm your mind/giving you someone to talk to."

For a nice, get-away-from-it-all sort of song, check out "Imaginary," which simmers from a piano-and-vo-cals dream into a full-scale rocker.

Some interesting spirituality surfaces in "Tourniquet," which is the heaviest song on the album. The same goes for "Whisper," the last song and another extreme rock song with a backing choir.

The only rap song on the album is in "Bring Me to Life," with Paul McCoy of 12 Stones doing guest vocals. So if you're expecting every song to sound like that, buy the CD anyway because it's so good you'll forget that you wanted another rap-rock album to add to the collection.

Overall, Evanesence's musical style is hard to categorize. Pseudo-Goth might come close to describing it. Basically, if Tori Amos and Trent Reznor donated their DNA so that Linkin Park could have a child, the results might sound something like this.



Ani DiFranco
Evolve

By Jessica Harvey

Ani DiFranco has never been one to fit the mold cast by mainstream music, and her newest album *Evolve* is no exception.

This time around DiFranco and the accompanying band combine a mix of bluesy horns, piano and bass with DiFranco's strong guitar. While the band that accompanies DiFranco on *Evolve* is a group of extremely talented musicians, DiFranco is most impressive when she shows the listener what she can accomplish with just her voice and an acoustic guitar on such songs as "Evolve" and the intro to "Serpentine." She recently played a show at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, performing with nothing more than her acoustic guitar, and her energy and musical talent far surpassed that of many four-piece bands.

On *Evolve*, DiFranco seems to be a bit more generic and detached from her songs, even though she is writing about extremely personal topics. This album also has a much stronger jazz influence, and while this may be nothing more than musical experimentation, it is still a welcome change of pace.

Since becoming a musician at the age of nine, she has definitely mastered the art of writing. DiFranco doesn't try to candy coat her lyrics to appeal to a mainstream audience. Instead, she writes from the heart and personal experiences.

For example, she sings about personal growth with lyrics such as "I got more and more to do/I got less and less to prove/I took me too long to realize/That I don't take good pictures/Cuz I have the kind of beauty that makes," on the song "Evolve."

DiFranco is constantly changing, recreating her style and sounds and evolving into something beautiful.

Battle of the bands



Smuggling Molasses performs at the JJC Battle of the Bands.

Photo by Adam Furesz

By Timothy Schmidt

On April 25, the Office of Student Activities presented the Battle of the Bands 2003. Despite the low attendance, the event was a success. Although two out of the original six bands who were originally signed up dropped out of the battle, the remaining four put on a great show with the help of 96.7 Will Rock.

Even though the contest was close, one band emerged to win the grand prize. With their wild stage show and ska style of music, Quarters Only won the battle and took home \$500. The band also won the chance to play a half-hour concert on June 7. Trailing in a close second was Straight Jack, which won \$300. Rounding out the top three and taking home \$200 was Absolute Zero.

Although unable to place in the top three, Smuggling Molasses, put on

a great show. All of these groups did great job at the Battle of the Bands... were well-received by the audience.



Jesse Steifes of Quarters Only

Photo by Adam Furesz

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April 30, 2003

The 'summer of the blockbuster' loaded with sequels

By Matt Sheehan

Last summer, there was much to brag about. *Spider-Man* was kicking ass and taking names on box office receipts, while *Star Wars: Episode II* was cleaning up what was left. In between, there was comedy that turned out to be fool's Goldmember, and *Undercover Brother* was the only thing worthy of laughs. Ah, yes—those were the days. But, alas, my friends, last summer was but a robin's egg compared to what the ostrich has spit out for this summer movie season. Not only do you have three highly anticipated sequels but also more comic book adaptations, a brand-new Disney/Pixar feature and plenty more sequels to go around. Let us begin.

Obviously, the most anticipated film since *Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace* is *The Matrix Reloaded*, which comes to theaters May 16. Back in 1999, *The Matrix* exploded onto screens with both critical and box office acclaim. With its super-cool special effects and Keanu knowing kung-fu, the film was immediately put into overdrive to develop a sequel, two sequels actually. *Reloaded* and *The Matrix Revolutions* (slated for a November release) were shot back to back. All major players as well as a few new ones are involved. Well, as Mr. Reeves says in every role he has ever been in, "Whoa."

Speaking of rushes, after its \$152 million domestic box office take, *X-Men* was only a short way away from spawning a sequel, as well as introducing new mutants. The sequel, *X2: X-Men United*, comes out May 2. The newest addition to the mutated cast is that of Nightcrawler (Alan Cumming), whose power is that with the ability to teleport. Look for a huge box office take and more sequels. This one will rock.

Hugh Jackman as Wolverine in *X-Men 2*.

Sure, I am looking forward to the *X-Men* and *Matrix* sequels, but there is only one that I cannot wait for: That is the long-awaited *Freaky*, which is based upon the popular comic book and comes to theaters June 20. Directed by Ang Lee (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*), Bruce Banner (Eric Bana) is eroded with gamma rays during an experiment gone awry. The side effect? He gets big a 'green and big when he gets angry. Is it to be on the edge of my seat waiting for this. Maybe it's the super cool special effects done by Industrial Light & Magic. Or Jennifer Connelly as the lead love interest? Or how about the cameo by... *V.I.P.* Lou Ferrigno in the film? Wait, I figured it out—it's going to kick ass because it

will clean house at the box office this summer. I don't know why, but this movie is on the top of my list for "Most Anticipated."

Number two on my "Most Anticipated" list is that of the man who said he would be back. Well, he's back, badder than ever and I cannot wait! Ah-ah! is back in *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*, which comes to theaters July 4. Although James Cameron and Linda Hamilton are not involved at all, his looks to still pack the kick-ass action and CGI of its predecessor. The film's basic premise (the plot is under tight wraps, for pete's sakes, people!) has another T-800 model programmed to protect John Connor (Nick Stahl) who is sent back to the present

when the latest Skynet machine is sent back to kill Connor—the Terminator, or T-X for short (Kristanna Loken). I don't care if the movie sucks or not (okay, maybe I do). I'm just looking forward to watching an awesome action flick.

Finally, Disney and Pixar, in what might be their last collaboration, will release *Finding Nemo*, a kiddie flick about a fish who is taken from the Great Barrier Reef and set up in a posh office in a fish tank. It is slated for release on May 30. Naturally, early buzz puts this film high, considering Pixar's previous history (such as *Toy Story*). Critics will more than likely love this one. Oh, yeah and kids should love it, too!

Other films of note:

• *Bruce Almighty*: Man doesn't like the way the world is run. God says, "Fine. You do it." Stars Jim Carrey, Jennifer Aniston and Morgan Freeman (May 23).

• *2 Fast 2 Furious*: Sequel to the box office smash *The Fast and the Furious*. Stars Paul Walker and Tyrese

(June 6).

• *When Harry Met Lloyd: Dumb and Dumber*: Prequel to *Dumb & Dumber*. They think they're going to make money off this? (June 13).

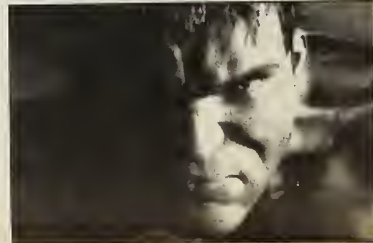
• *From Justin to Kelly*: Examines the two American Idol finalists. Yawn. Stars Kelly Clarkson and Justin Guarini (June 13).

• *Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle*: Another sequel—again. Stars Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz, Lucy Liu, Bernie Mac and Demi Moore (June 27).

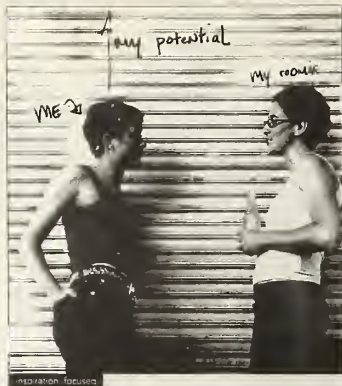
• *Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde*: Sequel to the surprise 2001 hit. First one was like a roller coaster—look a long, steady climb up to the climax and big laughs. Too bad it was the last half hour of the movie. Stars Reese Witherspoon, Sally Field, and Bob Newhart (July 4).

• *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*: Based upon the graphic novel by Alan Moore (also wrote the graphic novel that became *From Hell*). Never read it but the premise is great.

continued on page 9



A close up of the Incredible Hulk.



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Blockbuster



Neo and the gang is back again in the Matrix. Reloaded.

continued from page 8

historical literary icons band together to save the world. Stars Sean Connery, Peta Wilson and Shane West (July 11).

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. Based on,

yes, the Disney World ride. I'm still going to see it—love that ride! Stars Johnny Depp, Orlando Bloom (Legolas of *Lord of the Rings*) and Geoffrey Rush (July 11).

- Exorcist: The Beginning. Prequel to the scariest movie ever made that tells father Merrin's first encounter with Satan. Stars Stellan Skarsgård, Gabriel Mann and Billy Crawford (July 18).

- Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life. Sequel to the box office hit/critical failure of 2001. Stars Angelina Jolie (July 25).

- American Wedding. Second (and hopefully last) sequel to American Pie. Jim and Michelle get married. Stars Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan and Seann William Scott (August 1).

- Freddy vs. Jason. Finally, after nearly 11 years of bickering, the two greatest horror icons (after Michael Myers) get together to do battle. Stars Robert Englund, Ken Kirzinger, Jason Bateman, Monica Keena and Kelly Rowland (August 15).

Visit Matt's Movies & TV over the summer for articles, including opinions, "Best of..." lists, and my predictions for NEXT year's Oscars!

<http://geocities.com/mjs914jje/>

Zelda continues to captivate gamers



The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker

10/10
By Dan Snierson

I'm not going to try to hide it. *The Legend of Zelda* is hands-down my favorite videogame franchise of all-time. Others have come close to winning my little gamer heart, but *Zelda* takes the cake.

And the ironic thing is that since the original NES cart was released in 1987, the series' appeal and basic gameplay elements haven't really changed as much as they have simply evolved.

And that's what is so awesome about it. Enter *The Wind Waker*, the newest entry in the renowned *Zelda* series. As the series has steadily been evolving into the realm of reality with more powerful consoles, the new "toon-shaded" look of *The Wind Waker* took loyalists of the franchise by surprise. Was Nintendo actually taking the series (gasp) in a new direction, marketed toward (gasp) children? Relax my friends. *Zelda* is better than ever.

Let's just get this out of the way right off the bat. The new graphical look of *Zelda* is brilliant. Link blends in so fluidly with his beautiful world that you immediately get sucked in. There is a point in the game when you enter a world forgotten that is black and white. Link enters this world to find enemies frozen in time in the middle of what looked to be an epic

battle. After pulling a certain sword from its pedestal, the world suddenly becomes alive as color bleeds back into the game. This was truly amazing to watch. When Nintendo said that the reason for this new look was to convey Link's emotions, they weren't joking.

You will see Link express just about every human emotion during his epic quest. No matter how much you may have thought you hated this new look, after playing the game you will no longer care.

Just as *A Link to the Past* was a refinement of the original *Zelda*, *The Wind Waker* refines *Ocarina of Time* and *Majora's Mask*.

It plays and controls very similar but improves everywhere it can. For example, the combat with lock-on targeting still exists, but now you can target multiple enemies with weapons like your bowstring. You can also use counter attacks in combat as well as counter your foe's attacks.

These new elements don't reinvent anything, but they make something that was great even better.

So what else is new in the land of Hyrule? Well, for once the story part of *Zelda* actually ties all the *Zelda* games, particularly *Ocarina of Time*, together. I don't want to spoil anything, so I'll just say it's great how they piece everything together. My only gripe with *The Wind Waker* is that I wish it were longer. Like all great games, you never want the experience to end.

In the end Nintendo delivers once again. As with *Metroid Prime*, if you own a "cube," you absolutely must pick this game up.

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April 30, 2003

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Theater department finishes up season with *Suddenly Last Summer*

By Matt Farlane

The Fine Arts Department began the theater season as a season of self discovery with the fall productions of the documentary style *The Laramie Project* and the medieval morality play *Everyman*. This semester they continued with the light-hearted musical *Baby* and finally finished off the season with the intense and somber drama, *Suddenly Last Summer* by Tennessee Williams, which was performed throughout the weekend of April 10.

Set in Louisiana during the 1950s, the one-act *Suddenly Last Summer* is considered by critics to be Williams' most autobiographical because it looks at issues he confronted in his own life, namely mental illness and suppressed sexuality.

The production of *Suddenly Last Summer* worked well on many levels including casting, makeup and costuming. But its chief strengths were the set and the acting.

The entire play takes place in Mrs. Venable's elegant patio garden, designed by director Nicki Blowers and



An emotional scene from *Suddenly Last Summer*.

constructed by master carpenters Ian Miller and Ben Romashko. Basic outdoor furniture, white French patio doors, an arbor as a garden entrance and camouflage netting for hanging

Spanish moss helped to create a relaxed summer atmosphere.

The set's strength was that it remained subtle and allowed plenty of movement for the actors. The garden is referred to directly in the beginning of the play when Mrs. Venable is remembering her dead son Sebastian. The set always remains supplementary to the acting like a backdrop. Characters can be seen behind the patio doors at some moments or sitting in the background as the story unfolds.

And because of its minimal use of space the actors had the opportunity for a full range of movement. Mrs. Venable moves about frequently from her wheelchair to a bench or table and Catherine at one point walks around the stage as she tries to enjoy a cigarette in the presence of the watchful Sister Felicity.

Although energy levels varied at times, all the actors performed their roles very well. Through makeup, body

movement and voice, returning theater student Nicki Wachshauer was able to present an incorrigible Mrs. Venable that nobody could possibly like, as her cane swinging vengefulness comes out against other characters. Even in her stiff wooden wheelchair she was an intimidating presence yelling at everyone, including her own help Mrs. Foxhill, played by Taya Langlois.

Second-year theater major Jema Storzzyjanek excellently portrayed the strong emotions of Catherine Holly, a challenging role that required going back and forth from anxiety to fear to anger. As the confront Mrs. Venable we see both her courage and desperation for survival against a domineering and bitter woman. She allowed the audience to empathize with Catherine's difficult plight of being threatened with a lobotomy and the pressure of telling Mrs. Venable the life-shattering truth that her son was not "le-b-a-s-t-e" and had actually died a horrible death.

The play had other important char-

acters that were done well and gave a sense of how the main characters felt. Dr. Kukrowicz, played by Jamie Motz, found himself in the difficult position of trying to determine the truth and being a family mediator.

Steve Elmore, who played George Holly, performed well, adding pressure upon Catherine in order to get money. Adelia Givens, who played Sister Felicity, brought a sense of willingness to help, despite being limited by the family circumstances. Kim Koukas, who played Mrs. Holly, did a good job as a mother.

Although some audience members may not have been ready for this type of drama, most responded positively and overall the production achieved its goals.

The Fine Arts Department is now looking forward to next years "Luck Be A Lady Tonight" theater season, with upcoming productions of *All In The Timing*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Gays & Dolls* and *Talking With*.



The cast from *Suddenly Last Summer* strikes a pose.

Photo courtesy of the fine arts department

~HOROSCOPES~



BY CHOMPERS
THE WONDERFISH



Aries- You will pack up your bags and ride your show pony to glory when you join the circus. YEE HA!



Libra- A gladiatorial match will be held, and you must fight with an octopus as a sword.



Taurus- If sharks haunt your dreams, then a life as a pirate is in your future.



Scorpio- You will try harder, or your tombstone will be a cement lawn gnome.



Gemini- Call Snoo, he has the scoop!



Sagittarius- You must "shout, shout, shout at the devil!"



Cancer- You may need to use the force for this.



Capricorn- The wise stay behind and go ahead.



Leo- This is the last issue of the *Blazer*. If you still believe that these horoscopes are real, please seek help.



Aquarius- A small bird will follow you today. Be mindful.



Virgo- You are Danny Boy.



Pisces- Eat the small bird that is following your Aquarian friend.

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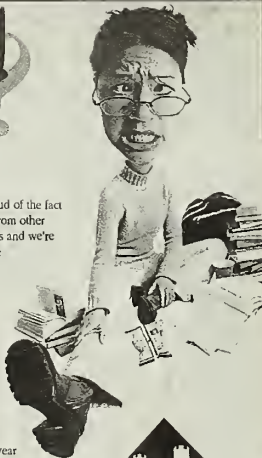
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Photos of the Issue



Pierre Fubini as a model at the JJC fashion show



A lovely sunset

Men's baseball swings into inconsistency

By Andrew Hrubec

The JJC Wolves have had a rollercoaster of a season. After starting the season off with a fury, and posting a 7-0 record, the Wolves have become inconsistent the remainder of the way. Inconsistency on the field has caused the Wolves to lose games that they probably should have won. Poor pitching and shaky defense has resulted in various losing streaks throughout the season. The Wolves' most recent losing streak lasted for eight games.

"We can't expect to win if we don't play solid defense the entire game," said head coach Wayne King on the JJC website.

One big positive that can come out of this season for the Wolves is their youth. Key players for next year include infielder Erin Satterlee and pitchers Gerry Novak and Nick Curry. With the return of these players and contributions from other returning freshmen, the Wolves promise to have a strong team poised for success.

As of April 24, the Wolves had

posted a 29-21 record as they prepare to enter the NICA Division III Region IV Tournament. If the Wolves can play favorably before the tournament, then they can build up some momentum and steam and then roll over the competition much like they did in early parts of the season.

"With a strong conference finish, we'll be able to put ourselves right where we want to be heading into the tournament," said King on the JJC website.

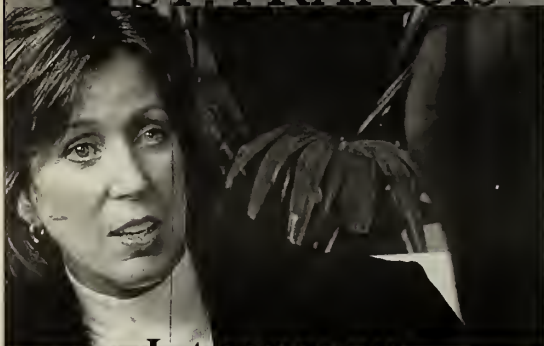


Ty Tornincasa hits a double during a game against Harper Valley College.

(Photo by David Ashby)



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April 30, 2003

Sun rises over softball



Alison Wilder at bat.

Photo by Adam Farcus

Lady Wolves turn around losing season

By Adam Fox

Despite some tough losses this season, including a nine-game losing streak, the sun seems to be rising for JCC's women's softball team.

The Lady Wolves got back to winning games on April 15 in a double-header against Rock Valley College. These two victories were the first for new head coach Dan Murphy.

Leading the way for the Lady Wolves in the first game was sophomore Emily Satter and freshman Caitlyn Cronkite.

The two combined with four hits, two RBIs and a stolen base.

In the second game, Carly Gura and Stephanie Sloman led the way. Gura, a sophomore from Plainfield High School, hit a triple and had two RBIs, while Sloman, a Joliet Township graduate, had two hits, a double and two

RBIs.

However, dominant pitching usually always outplays dominant hitting, and freshman Andrea Wright was as dominant as they come. Wright, a graduate from Reed-Custer High School, has amassed a record of 5-9 for the season. She started both games and silenced the Golden Eagles to five runs total throughout the double-header.

The following day the Lady Wolves dominated Prairie State College's team 12-0 and 12-1, which moved their record up to 7-17 overall and 3-3 in the NAC. On the hill was sophomore right-hander Carly Gura, who pitched a gem in both games of the double-header, and notched her first two wins of the season, leaving her record at 2-8.

Will the Lady Wolves continue their winning ways? Only time will tell, but as long as they keep getting timely hitting and masterful pitching, every game should be a cinch.

Men's tennis looks forward to next year

By Andrew Hrubec

The men's tennis team has had a rough go of things this year. As of April 15, the Wolves were winless on the season, going 0-5. A roster that at one time consisted of as many as seven players has now dwindled down to three. There's no question that the lack of athletes on the team has contributed to the unfortunate turn of events for the Wolves, but next season bodes to be different.

Coach Tim Vandervall has high hopes for next season. "Hopefully the freshmen will come back; so we're kind of rebuilding."

With promising freshmen Brandon Tucker, Tim Seidler and Tom Moretti, the Wolves have a lot of potential to improve on the dismal 2003 season. "Right now on paper we look pretty good for next season," said Vandervall.

Entering the NCAA Region IV Tournament, coach Vandervall feels that his team will fare pretty well in the singles and doubles events. The tournament consists of Division III rivals Rockford, Rock Valley and College of DuPage.

With the season coming to an end,



Mark Fiske basks in a moment of tennis-playing glory

Photo by Adam Farcus

the Wolves have a bright future ahead of them.

"I'm looking forward to next year," said Vandervall.

2003: A season of change for the Bulls

By Andrew Hrubec

April 7, 2003, marked the end of an era. Jerry Krause, general manager of the Chicago Bulls and one of the most intelligent sports minds in the world, resigned as a result of health-related issues.

"The rigors and stress of the job have caused me some minor physical problems in the past few years," said Krause in a press release by the team.

While most people in Chicago have been vocal about their dislike for Krause, I have been an avid supporter of him for as far back as I can remember. I once dreamed of being exactly like Krause, not exactly the physical specimen that he is, but for his ability to find talent to build a team around Michael Jordan. Krause was the mastermind behind the Bulls dynasty of the 1990s. During that time, Krause drafted Scottie Pippen, Horace Grant and Toni Kucok. Krause also hired Phil Jackson to his first head coaching job and signed key free agents Ron Harper, Luc Longley and the flamboyant Dennis Rodman.

The breakup of the dynasty can't be blamed on Krause. He was willing to bring everyone back for a few more years, but all of the key members weren't willing to cooperate. Scottie would not want to stay if Michael was willing to come back. Michael only wanted to stay if Phil was willing to



John Paxson during a press conference.

Photo courtesy of www.mba.com/bulls/

come back. And Phil wanted to go to the mountains of Montana and practice his Zen.

The truth of the matter is that while the Bulls were winning championships and getting older, other teams around the league were getting younger. Krause knew that in order to stay competitive, a young core of players would need to be brought into the fold.

I have to admit that I was skeptical about the trade that sent Elton Brand to the Clippers in exchange for Tyson Chandler. Brand was a promising young talent but Krause saw something more in Chandler. With Eddy Curry, I felt that he was an overrated high school player who would end up on the list of underachievers in the NBA. But Krause made the moves with one thought in mind, the World Championship.

Krause mentioned shortly after the draft that brought Chandler and Curry to the Bulls that he wasn't interested in just making the playoffs; he wanted to win it all. Being competitive is one thing, but being dominant is another. The young Bulls shined at the end of the season with the emergence of Jamal Crawford in the starting role, Curry starting at center and Tyson Chandler holding down the fort at power forward. Even the biggest of all the big men,

Shaquille O'Neal, is impressed with Curry. After the Lakers lost to the Bulls on March 11, Shaq mentioned that there are only three true centers in the NBA; himself, Curry and Yao Ming.

With the departure of Krause as general manager, team owner Jerry Reinsdorf knew that he would need to find a suitable replacement. The search led Reinsdorf to John Paxson. The three-time NBA champ got the nod as GM of the Bulls and he admits that he doesn't have the most experience for the job, but he will use the personnel around him for advice until he gets the hang of things.

This off-season will be extremely interesting for the Bulls. Paxson will be responsible for the draft, and he must decide what to do with players such as Jay Williams and Marcus Fizer. In my mind, Jay Williams is a great talent but with Crawford showing that he has what it takes, Williams is expendable.

All in all, Paxson is a good fit. He's very knowledgeable, and he knows talent when he sees it. But, all I can say is that he is no Jerry Krause. And with the Baby Bulls emerging as future all-stars, we will never know if Krause's "master plan" will play out like he had hoped.

ATHLETE OF THE ISSUE



Andy Radek

Andy Radek, a sophomore outfielder from Yorkville High School, has helped to lead JCC's baseball team to its record of 29-21 overall and 7-3 in the North Central Community College Conference (NAC). With a double, two RBI and two runs scored, he helped to shut out Moraine Valley Community College on April 24. In the game against South Suburban College the day before, Radek had a home run, two RBI and one run scored, helping the Wolves cruise past the Bulldogs 4-3. Radek plans to study business administration.

By David Ashby



Former Bulls manager Jerry Krause.

Photo courtesy of www.mba.com/bulls/

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The next Blazer issue streets Oct. 15

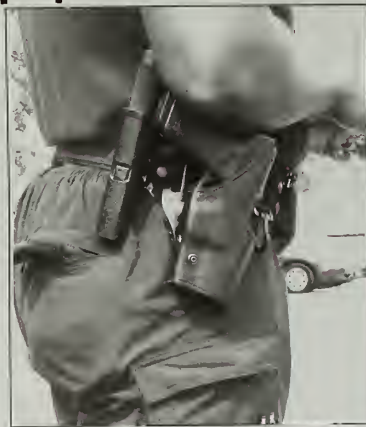
New equipment for JJC police

By Kevin Milligan

Students and faculty may begin to notice some new changes around the campus this semester. For the first time, the Joliet Junior College Police Department will be patrolling the campus armed. In addition to firearms, police have also implemented the use of a two-man bike patrol to provide increased mobility and accessibility throughout the campus.

These changes have come as a result of an external study conducted from a collection of other campus police consultants, said Pete Comanda, chief of JJC Police Department. The study was designed to assess the existing police force, identify areas in need of enhancement, and help reinforce those areas. Results from the study were submitted to an internal board comprised of various JJC department heads, who after review gave their unanimous recommendation to the JJC Board of Trustees for the final approval.

The bike patrols began on June 25, while the vote to purchase firearms and commence training came on July 8, with the final approval on Aug. 12. The department underwent a rigorous 40-hour training course that covered a multitude of tasks from weapon familiarization to tactical shooting drills, Comanda said. The bike patrol officers received an additional 32 hours of training in a specialized bike program administered by the Joliet Police Department. There, they learned skills such as traversing staircases, tactical dismounts and bike safety. The new training allowed the officers a valuable opportunity to acquire new skills.



JJC police sport their latest tool of security—firearms. Photo by Brian Delaney.

While relearning prior skills that may have become rusty due to non use.

So why all the changes all of a sudden?

In the wake of violent tragedies such as Columbine and Sept. 11, American people have been forced to become more aware of security in the areas where they function. While most faculty, students, and officers feel that the campus provides a generally safe environment, the police feel that the addition of firearms and bike patrols will only help to preserve the existing sense of security, while also acting as a deterrent to future tragedy.

Comanda also cites catalysts for the changes in his department as a "general progression of professionalism," and an increase in the urbanization around the campus. Comanda stated that there was a sense of frustration echoed within the department in the past that officers were not able to perform their duties to the fullest extent without the proper tools. The decision to "become proactive instead of reactive" reflects the positive attitude of the force and the changes that Comanda has helped to implement.



Officer Tommy Barnes watches traffic from his Smith & Wesson bike. Photo by Brian Delaney.

While the overall reactions of both students and faculty are supportive of the new changes, there are still those who have mixed opinions. Some are unaware or do not recognize the campus police as an active force, but rather a passive security service with little actual authority. Others feel that campus police are not taken seriously because the students do not take the "junior college" experience or its safety issues seriously. Still others insist that the introduction of weapons into the environment will only provoke more problems instead of discourage them.

Not so, Comanda countered. He believes that the advantage to being unarmed prior to the fall semester allowed his officers a "variety of responses" to a given situation, and forced a "greater thought process," instead of automatically relying on a firearm to neutralize a problem. It is this, Comanda believes, that will enable his staff to utilize firearms properly in the line of duty.

While opinions on the subject of firearms may differ, the bike patrols have enjoyed much positive response.

Officer Tommy Barnes, one of the bike patrolmen, feels that the addition of the bike patrols has a good effect on the students.

"There are times when I'm riding that I get stopped by students several times just to talk," said Barnes. He feels that the bikes give a greater feeling of accessibility to the students while making the officers more approachable and personable.

"Students feel less intimidated to talk to us on bikes than if we were in cars," Barnes suggested.

Barnes agreed that the elevated profile amongst the student population in itself may prove to discourage crime.

The bike patrols also allow officers increased access to points around campus which a regular squad car may have difficulty reaching. "We've caught people doing things back in the nature trails on our bikes before they even knew it," Barnes recalled.

As the school year progresses, students and faculty can enjoy the feeling of security, knowing that the new changes of the campus police will help promote an image of competence and professionalism at every level.

City Center campus welcomes students

Downtown campus starts students' semesters off in a 'special way'

City Center Campus welcomed JJC students to the Fall 2003 semester by rolling out the Welcome Wagon during the first week of classes.

The Welcome Wagon program, sponsored by Student Activities, included free showing of movies, food, games and more. JJC students were very excited to see the activities that were provided for them.

"It makes me proud to attend a college that treats their students in a special way by welcoming them on the first day of class," said Linda Kremen, a Sociology 290 student. "Little acts of kindness like this will always reinforce my decision to continue to

come back."

Meerylee Young, another JJC student, expressed similar sentiments regarding City Center Campus and the Welcome Wagon program.

"It was nice to have a snack, because I usually don't have time to grab anything to eat before class," Young said.

City Center Campus welcomes all JJC students to the new semester! We will continue in an effort to foster a welcoming atmosphere for students throughout the year.

Submitted by Patricia Adaraju, City Center

JJC president retires in 2006

On Sept. 11, 2003, JJC President J.D. Ross made the announcement of his intended retirement after his contract expires on June 30, 2006. He has been president of the college since February 1999.

Ross advised the Board of Trustees of his intentions at a recent meeting when his contract was extended, so that the board would have ample time to plan and look for a replacement.

Initially, a public announcement was not going to be made until closer to the date of retirement. However, when a reporter requested a copy of Ross' contract containing his planned retirement, Ross decided to make the announcement to the campus.

"I wanted to share this information with you through internal channels rather than have you read it in the local newspaper," Ross said



President J.D. Ross. File photo.

in an email announcing his plans.

"Most of you know my commitment to this college and its mission. You may be assured that this commitment will not waver—and I will continue to work in that spirit until June 30, 2006."

Ross has been at JJC nearly 29 years. He served as director of the inmate training program, associate dean of special programs and vice president of academic services before becoming president.

NEWS BRIEFS

Fine Arts Music Recital
On Sept. 24, starting at 11:00 a.m. in the Fine Arts Theater, the art students will be having a recital. This event will be open to the student body at no charge.

State College Fair
On Oct. 21, JJC will be hosting a State College Fair. From 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the C and D concourse. Private Illinois College and University Fair

The Multicultural Transfer Center will be hosting private colleges and universities on Oct. 31, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the C and D concourse.

JJC alumnus Aaron L. Brule received his commission as a naval officer after completing Officer Candidate School at Naval Aviation Schools Command, Pensacola, Fla.

BLAZER VIEW

Security issues on campus

The day probably started out like any other day for students of Oyersburg State Community College. No doubt they were laughing and talking with friends, complaining about homework and wishing they didn't have to go to class for another boring lecture, even as they made their way to the second floor classroom of the Eller building.

But this day would be different. Instead of the anticipated lecture, the students and their teacher were taken hostage in their own classroom by a man with an firearm and a knife who barricaded the door.

According to CNN.com, the hostage-taker was 26-year-old Harold Kilpatrick, Jr., who was neither a student nor an employee of the college. The campus was evacuated, and the Oyersburg Police Special Operations Response Team and hostage negotiation team talked to Kilpatrick through the walls of the classroom, and communicated with students in the room via cell phones.

As the evening wore on, Kilpatrick ordered pizza and sodas which he shared with the hostages; but his mental disparity became apparent when he claimed that he was



a member of Al Qaeda. A suicide note was discovered at his sister's home, where he had been staying, stating that he wanted to kill himself and take some people with him. The stand off ended when Kilpatrick began firing rounds into the room, and the police entered the room, opening fire and killing Kilpatrick. Two of the hostages were injured, but certainly things could have been much worse.

This year, for the first time, our campus police officers are carrying guns. Some people may see this as a pointless measure. But when we hear stories like this one, which happened just last week on Sept. 18, it's reassuring to know that our police force is armed and better able to do their job of keeping the campus secure.

If it can happen in Oyersburg, Tenn., it can happen here. Think about

it: What's stopping the random demented wacko from showing up on our campus and putting an entire classroom in jeopardy?

We have no metal detectors at school. We aren't required to show a student I.O. upon entering our classrooms. We don't even have to have parking permits. No matter how many security measures are taken, the real bad guys will still slip through the cracks. Besides, adding more restrictions for students in good standing seems like a formula for frustration rather than increased security.

One possibility would be to have regularly scheduled drills for students, faculty, and college employees. These drills could simulate various emergency scenarios and prepare all of us to deal with potential dangers and threats on our campus. Another option might be having training seminars for those interested in learning more about how to prevent or respond to emergencies.

We can hope that we never have to encounter an armed madman in our classrooms, but even in less alarming situations we can all work together to make this campus a safe place.

QUIT COMPLAINING! GET INVOLVED!

By Christine O'Brien

Did you ever wonder if your opinions would ever matter or even count? When you and your friends are gossiping or studying in the cafeteria and you tell them how you are so sick of the same old food served here all the time, do they march up to the lunch ladies and complain about it? What if there was someone right here at JJC

Junior College that did care and would do something about it? A group of students who do listen whether they can help or not? Our student government is that group of devoted individuals working hard to better our community.

"Our goal is to do what is best for the students," says Michelle Lorenzen, the vice-president of the student government. "We are the link

between students and faculty."

The student government meets once a month, every Thursday at 3 p.m. on the bridge in room H-1016. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings. The basic objective of student government is to be here for you, the students, the faculty, our school, our community. They may not have all the answers to your questions or may not be able to solve all of your problems or fix all of your complaints, but they are dedicated to help and at the very least, connect you to where you need to go.

how government and leadership work," explains Drew Duzinkas, who has been the Student Trustee since he was elected last May.

Duzinkas says he has experienced a lot through his involvement with student government and wants everyone else to understand things that he has learned.

"We can make things happen here at JJC, and if the student body has opinions on what's going on here, we'd like to hear it," Duzinkas says.

"Organizations like student government are here to help people understand that if you have a problem with the way things are being done, the only thing stopping you from changing them is a lack of involvement and interest. Not just here at JJC, but everywhere. That's what we're trying to remind people."

So quit complaining and do something about it—things can't fix themselves. Get involved and voice your opinion to student government. After all, Duzinkas says that the basic motto for student government is, "If we can't give you what you are looking for, we can help you find it."

"We can make things happen here at JJC, and if the student body has opinions on what's going on here, we'd like to hear it."

—Drew Duzinkas

A huge time commitment is definitely involved for our peers on the student government. It is considered one of the most active groups related to student activities at JJC. So why would someone want to dedicate so much time and effort into an activity at school?

"We go all over the state, not just here at the school. I'm also learning

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Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the *Blazer* office at H-1015B.

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Tuition increases in response to tight budget

By Maria Zamudio

The growth in Joliet Junior College is evident, as well as the increase in the tuition. But where is the money going? Should we anticipate more increases in the near future?

JJC is the oldest community college in the United States. It's been running since 1901 until the present. It is hard to maintain an old campus. Along with the growth, the college is experiencing serious state education

funding cuts. There were two failed referenda from last year which made the situation worse.

In response to state cuts and in an effort to identify more money to deal with deferred maintenance on campus, the Board of Trustees recently voted to increase tuition by \$2 per credit hour, to increase the technology fee by 50 cents and to add a new \$2 per credit hour Capital Assessment Fee. This Capital Assessment Fee

will be used exclusively to deal with maintenance issues. Some of the departments on campus also suffered some cuts this school year.

These measures helped the college to reduce the budget by about \$500,000 and also restructure the staff's health insurance program to help save the college \$250,000. The college also continues with a long list of deferred maintenance projects. At the August Board of Trustees

meeting, board members agreed to issue up to \$9.7 million in debt certificates to help finance a plan to complete \$25.8 million of maintenance and repair issues. Repayment for these debt certificates will come from our operation and maintenance fund, and will be made over a 10-year period. The items scheduled for repair include elevators, heating, cooling and roofing systems.

In reference to new referendum to help aid some of the maintenance expenses, the faculty is trying to push a new proposal to get a new referendum out in the community. Unfortunately the referendum will not be out any time soon.

Although JJC increased the tuition fees, many believe that this college is still very affordable, and the money is going back to the college for repairs and maintenance.

New office of Minority Student Affairs now open

By Rocio Zamudio

Joliet Junior College established a new office in March, designed to enrich the college experience for minority students and their families.

The Office of Minority Student Affairs' Peer Mentoring and Leadership Program provides incoming or transfer students with resources and services designed to develop student's academic performance, leadership development, service learning as well as cultural exploration.

The Peer Mentor and Leadership Program, retention initiative created by the OMSA in close collaboration with the Counseling Department (Project Success), is a creative program that provides students with resources and services available on campus, giving students various options to reach their maximum potential.

The Peer Mentor and Leadership Program connects students with a Peer Mentor, an existing minority student who has excellent academic standing with personal persistent and leadership skills at the College. Students are matched with their Peer Mentors according to their academic, personal, and social interests. This year, 10 minority students currently enrolled at the College were selected to serve as Peer Mentors.

The 2003-2004 Peer Mentors are Macbeth Cruz, Tsungai Mumbiro, Jude Register, Renee Rivers, Lavern Sanders, Rebecca Torres, LaTasha Traylor, LeTasha Traylor, Maria Zamudio and Rocio Zamudio.

To better prepare students serving as mentors they were required to attend a 10-hour training program with workshops covering topics on Effective Learning Skills, Conflict Resolution, Time Management and Diversity 101.

The role of the Peer Mentors is to serve as a supportive resource to students working in combination with the different assets in and outside JJC. OMSA works not only with Project Achieve but also with other student and programs such as ENLACE.

Yolanda Isaacs, director of OMSA has a long history of working with students. She has been working for 10 years as an advocate for students, a resource for faculty members, and has taught classes at DePaul University. She has also been a graduate assistant for residence life at the University of Illinois at Chicago for three years, and area coordinator and assistant dean of students at DePaul University.

Isaacs is currently working on her doctoral degree in education from DePaul University. Please visit the office of Minority Student Affairs at the Main Campus, room D-1008.

Yolanda Isaacs may be reached at (815) 280-6688.

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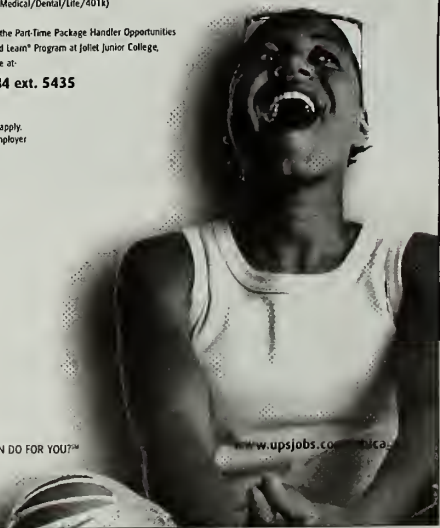
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Mardi Gras 2003 descends on JJC Main Street

By Traci Rader

Mardi Gras filled the halls of JJC on Sept. 17 and 18. Mainstreet once again made an awesome kickoff with this year's theme, Mardi Gras. This annual event brought to you by the Student Activities Office gives students a chance to see all the extra activities that are available to them.

There's a club for everyone at JJC. Mainstreet provided information on clubs, career related organizations, special interest groups, honorary organizations and some departmental information. Students had a chance to meet sponsors and chat with other members to get

acquainted with others who have same interests. The Student Activities Office treated students to refreshments, giveaways, Mardi Gras beads and masks. During the two-day Mainstreet event, students were also able to participate in a game by visiting at least ten

different clubs or organization tables to qualify for door prizes, T-shirts, gift certificates and phone cards. If you happened to miss this two-day celebration, contact Pam Dilday at (815) 280-2202 in the Office of Student Activities to get information on what's available to you. You can

also visit the OSA office, JJC website or checkout our monthly calendar for upcoming news on activities and clubs.



Students check out the variety of clubs and organizations at Mardi Gras 2003.



Libby and Pierre display their photos of their artwork hot out of the kiln.



The Vet Tech club members Tom Guild, Brande Maas and Rebecca Britz show off man's best friend, Zeus.

Photos by Adam Farcus

Joliet Junior College has a broad variety of extracurricular clubs for students to join. From culinary arts to clog dancing, from speech to sports teams, round out your college life by joining a club!

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JJC should seriously sell-out

by Brian Delaney, Co-Editor

When a problem arises, I take it upon myself to come up with the best possible solution through a rigorous scientific process of trial and error. My latest dilemma that I have been debating over is Joliet Junior College, as a whole. Everywhere I look, I hear people bitching about anything and everything. For example, try sitting in the cafeteria during lunch and eavesdrop on what people are complaining about. It's always the same stuff over and over: "My lunch costs too much," "I can't find a parking spot," "My teacher is gay," "My fat ass is huge." Now if I didn't know any better, I would say that students and faculty spend what little free time they have during their breaks complaining about JJC and such related issues. Destructive criticism is a very dangerous and degenerating problem. The human brain cannot function properly in an environment that subjects it to continuous negativity. Thus, performance levels of both students and staff alike are below average due to this pessimistic bombardment around the campus. That is the problem at hand for this issue. My solution entails a broad range of tactics to eliminate all congenital defects, both physical and mental at Joliet Junior College campuses.

Let's set aside the technical jargon, because to be honest, I don't have any idea as to what I'm talking about. What I do have is a lot of ideas—they're not necessary good ideas—but that doesn't matter right now. It is quite obvious that most of the valid complaints about JJC involve something to do with insufficient funds or something related to that matter, right? So if JJC were to sell out to big money corporations, all troubles should go away, right?

WRONG!

Despite my thinking being wrong, the long range goal of my plan is to entirely eliminate all complaints throughout the entire Joliet Junior College district. There will be no more need to whine about the book store ripping you off, or that bottles of pop are over-priced. It sounds impossible to remove all discrepancies in such a large system, but if my three pronged plan of attack is administered correctly, all problems will be solved.

By now, you are probably asking what is this great big plan of mine? It's quite simple and I'm insulted that no one else thought of doing this earlier. It's very similar to what Comiskey

Park did when they sold out to U.S. Cellular. The main idea is to have various corporations come through the campus and divide up the property and buy it out. And when I say buy out, I mean the entire building becomes property of that company, and they will sponsor the selected area they bid on.

For example, the J Building would be renamed to the Bud Lite Building. The C Building could be sold to Pepsi, and so on. Of course, which ever corporation owns the building, they have exclusive rights to advertise wherever they please.

"Money is not only the root of all evil, it's also a source of wealth," commented a student walking from Centennial Commons.

Although the idea of having JJC sell out to whoever has the most money sounds like a bad idea, it would certainly remove the current version of communism that has been installed upon us. As soon as these big corporations start pumping their money into the school, it will be the best junior college in the county, and maybe even the state. While drafting up the possible corporate budget for JJC, I took the liberty of using fancy Adobe software to generate my own artistic conception of how the school could possibly look. See figures 2b and 3b.

Look at it this way, with an unlimited cash flow provided to the school, a multitude of things could and would happen, thus greasing the well being of everyone. No longer will we have to depend on endless referendums and tax payer money to pay for building expansions and new parking lots. Plus, tuition rates would probably drop so low, you could attend for free. Pat Morita was unavailable to comment on the possibility of a free tuition.

When various students were asked about the latest idea to sell, a few negative points were established.

"Who in the hell wants to go to the only junior college in the country that relies on big money corporations to bail them out?" commented a pessimistic know-it-all.

"It's the darkest hour right before dusk," stated resident DJ Stealth.

"I don't think any job would hire me with 'Bud Lite Junior College' on my resume. Well maybe if I want to drive a beer truck," said Trucker Dan.

All in all, corporate sponsorship is just one possible idea to end the current JJC Poverty Performance Frontier. According to my studies, when compared to the quantity supplied

versus the quantity demanded, the graph would look something similar to figure 1a. (see graph below left) After studying the data, it can be determined that I did not pay attention in economics. Just kidding, Chiff!

In short, I have presented enough cold, hard facts in the hope that some day, my dream of big money monopolies owning our schools will actually happen. One could only hope for such a fantasy to come true.

A vision such as that illustrated (right) could only be achieved by the generous corporate sponsorship that Joliet Junior College should open itself up to.

Artist's conception by Brian Delaney



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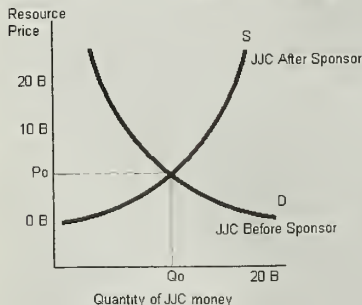
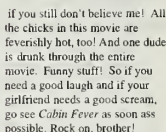
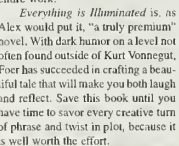
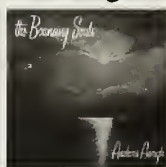


Figure 1a

***Cabin Fever* 'kicks major feverish ass'**



CD Review
Bouncing
Souls:
Anchors
Aweigh



By David Cummings

It's smooth sailing for the Bouncing Souls with the release of their latest album, *Anchors Aweigh*, which set sail on Aug. 25, 2003. The journey for the Souls seemed like a rough one, but this album proves that there are better days ahead.

The heartfelt, 16-track CD has a little something for everyone, even if you're not into the whole punk rock scene. Many if not all of us can see eye to eye with the Souls based on personal experiences in our lives.

You'll find the words you were looking for when your girlfriend or boyfriend just decided that they were going to leave you without saying a word. Great comfort awaits those that try so hard to be a part of a group, not realizing that we're never alone because we are all a part of life. If you're bummed about your best friend moving away to college or maybe they moved on to a better place, sing along with the Bouncing Souls and reminiscence about the best times you've had together.

Energetic riffs, funky bass lines, and just all-out kick-ass drumming make up the backbone of this album. Anchors Awiegh goes from hardcore to slowed down pop punk, and the only thing it lacks is a mediocre song.

The disc itself is an enhanced CD featuring behind the scenes footage and a music video for "Kids and Heroes." If that's not enough Bouncing Souls for you, check out other titles by the Souls from Epitaph Records and Chunksaah Records.

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Fall filled with Oscar bait; Matrix, Lord of the Rings end



By Matt Sheehan

They turn a bright golden yellow and a rich scarlet red. Gently falling, the leaves float as if gravity does not exist.

Okay, so I'm not Walt Whitman, but fall can be a beautiful time, especially for movies. The films contained within the autumn of 2003 are no exception. Trilogies will come to a dramatic and climatic end and just like all years during this time, there will be plenty of Oscar bait. Without further ado, let's move on.

September is filled with action and Oscar worthy Sept. 12, *Matchstick Men* (opened Sept. 12) is the first film to create plenty of buzz in terms of Academy Award consideration. Nicolas Cage stars as a con artist who has two problems: one—he is obsessive compulsive and two—right before a big job, his estranged daughter shows up. Directed by Ridley Scott and with great supporting actor Sam Rockwell in this flick appears to be one of the highest of quality. On Sept. 19, the film that I for some

reason, look forward to is the Bram Stoker version, if you will, of *Romeo & Juliet*. Underworld has Kate Beckinsdale as Selene, a—get this—vampire who hunts down and kills the lycen, which is a fancy word for werewolves. Yes, werewolves. Vampires are the aristocratic, almost respectable immortals, while werewolves are the continually spawning, lower class perpetual beings. Selene falls in love with a lovely human that just happens to be a werewolf. Shakespeare ain't got nothing on this flick.

October brings us equally notable projects on tap. On Oct. 3, three flicks of note are released—two possible Oscar contenders and one funnyman's solo venture. *Out of Time* with Denzel Washington and *The Human Stain* with Anthony Hopkins and Nicole Kidman are the Oscar bait. School of Rock, with Jack Black, is the comedy. Boy, those few sentences were plain enough, don't you think? Anyway, Oct. 10 has Clint Eastwood's return to directing with *Mystic River*, which is garnering considerable attention for star Sean Penn. Also, Quentin Tarantino returns with his long-awaited *Kill Bill: Volume 1*. Yes, there will be a second volume, only if people go see the first. Apparently, the rumor is that Tarantino really felt that he didn't need to cut the footage and edit it into one flick, so he and Miramax head Harvey Weinstein agreed to split it into two 90-flicks. It's a risk but plenty of people will go to see it, even if they're a bit away from Quentin's. On Oct. 17,

über-independent film distributor Lions Gate Films releases *Wonderland*, which stars Val Kilmer as porn star John Holmes (the man who inspired Dirk Diggler in *Boogie Nights*) in a semi-biographical film on Holmes that centers on his connection to the infamous *Wonderland Murders*. Kate Bosworth (*Blue Crush*) and Lisa Kudrow play Holmes' lover and wife respectively. Word has it that Kilmer got so wrapped up and involved as his character that people almost became sick standing around him. November 7th will be the end of the matrices. *Matrix: Revolutions* wraps up Neo & Co.'s fight against the machines. The majority of this film will take place in the real world, or as Morpheus called it in the first *Matrix*, "The desert of real." Despite people being turned off by *Reloaded*, *Revolutions* will still be a hit and will cement the green. Going up against *Revolutions*, Will Ferrell stars as a grown man who was abandoned as a child and saved by none other than Santa Claus in *Elf*. The trailer for the flick is hilarious. Check this one out. On Nov. 14,

Russell Crowe returns to action form with *Master & Commander: The Far Side of the World*, an adaptation of author Patrick O'Brian's historical novels about the 19th century British Navy. Despite Hardcore O'Brian fans up in arms over such things as the story, to the casting of Crowe, this looks promising and could be the new *Gladiator* for Crowe. Also on the 14th, Bugs Bunny and friends return without Michael Jordan in *Looney Tunes: Back in Action*. Yes, I do plan on seeing this because I grew up watching *Looney Tunes* on ABC every Saturday morning, even though they were 40-50 years old. Go see it, you moron. Mike Myers will do more makeup this. Thanksgiving. No, not as Fat Bastard, but as the beloved Dr. Seuss character, *The Cat in the Hat*. This is a bit of a risk considering how the Grinch did. And this is an even more widely recognized and liked Seussian tale. Nevertheless, it will make something the Grinch did, too—money. There's yet another Disney attraction tapped to be adapted to the big screen: *The Haunted Mansion* stars Eddie "I need a hit!" Murphy as a workaholic



Keaton looks some ass and takes some names in the final installment of *The Matrix* trilogy. Photo from Warner Bros. Pictures.

father that has an interview at the unlikeliest of places: a haunted mansion. Also on Nov. 28, Big Fish, the latest from director Tim Burton, is a film that I look forward to. Billy Crudup stars as a son who listens to his dying father (Albert Finney) tell his baffling life story. Ewan McGregor plays the younger version of the father in flashbacks. With great supporting cast that includes Danny DeVito, Helena Bonham Carter, and Jessica Lange, this may just be Oscar potential for Burton. Last but not least, December has plenty to get excited about. It all starts Dec. 5 with the Tom Cruise epic, *The Last Samurai*. General who plays a former Civil War general who goes to Japan to teach the emperor the ways of the gun, until he is captured by the emperor's enemies—the last of the samurai. While with them, Cruise learns their code of honor and is torn between the two groups. Cruise has been on a roll as of late, the greatest film to not yet be released comes to theaters Dec. 19: *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. Director Peter Jackson took a gamble with filming all three back-to-back, but that risk has

paid off with over 1.6 billion dollars grossed worldwide so far. The only thing left is that damned Academy, which NEEDS to give Jackson and stars Ian McKellan and Viggo Mortensen their due. I cannot wait!

Fall films can be funny, adventurous, or dramatic. Just don't fall over yourself from hopping from one theater to the next checking out everything that is to be seen!

Check out Matt's Movies & TV for more Fall Movie preview at www.geocities.com/mjs914jiew/

OTHER FILMS OF NOTE THIS SEASON

<i>Once Upon a Time in Mexico</i>	Sept. 12
<i>Lost in Translation</i>	Sept. 12
<i>Babes in Toyland</i>	Sept. 19
<i>Scary Movie 3</i>	Sept. 19
<i>Under the Tropic of Cancer</i>	Sept. 26
<i>The Rundown</i>	Sept. 26
<i>Rainbow Jury</i>	Oct. 17
<i>Tease</i>	Oct. 17
<i>Matricule (remake)</i>	Oct. 17
<i>Goathead</i>	Oct. 24
<i>Scary Movie 3</i>	Oct. 24
<i>Allen (remake)</i>	Oct. 31
<i>Stick on You</i>	Dec. 12



Sam Rockwell helps Nicolas Cage with his breathing in *Matchstick Men*. Photo from Warner Bros. Pictures.

JJC Fine Arts performing season promises to be entertaining

By Holly Caponi

This semester, the performing arts department will present two fall plays: "All in the Timing" by David Ives and "Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare. Professor Zach Bloomfield directs both of these plays. According to Nicki Blowers, technical advisor, there are four plays in a school year. This does not include the student directed play or the summer touring show.

Auditions for the plays were held August 28th and August 29th. Auditions for next semester will be held in December and February.

The two plays next semester are "Guys and Dolls," by Frank Loesser, to Swelling, and *Abe Burrows*, which will also be directed by Professor Zach Bloomfield, and "Talking With," by Jane Martin which will be directed by theater manager Nicki Blowers. More information on these two plays will be available at another date. "All in the

Timing" is about a very odd world in which lives creates a virtual stress test of the English language. The characters in the book often plunge into black holes that are called "Philadelphias." The play holds two characters in a locked room, which recreates the Hamlet scene. According to the press release the

play is six short comedies, which combines wit, intellect, satire, and just plain fun. The play opens October 2 and runs through October 5. *Romeo and Juliet* runs November 6th through the 9th. Performance times are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets

can be purchased by calling (815) 260-2200, or at the box office located next to K-1002. Ticket price for the general public is \$5. JJC Faculty and staff receive the discounted rate of \$4, and JJC students pay only \$2. Discounted tickets are available for Senior Citizens and non-JJC Students. For

individuals planning to attend multiple shows, there is a subscription package available. Students interested in being a part of the plays, whether as actors or technicians, should contact Nicki Blowers at (815) 260-2200.

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Men's soccer kicks off second season

By Steven Krueger

Fall of 2002 marked the inaugural season for the JJC Wolves men's soccer team. After finishing third in the region, the team looks to improve on last year's 7-6 record. Coach Chris Trillo is excited about the new possibilities that lie before him in his second season at the helm. He feels that the team is more cohesive than last year and will improve only improve on last season's record. In a conference where "anyone can beat anyone," nothing is impossible. With nine players returning from last year, their experience will help propel the team forward. Last year the team finished with a respectable record, but Trillo hopes to reach the quarterfinals, or maybe even the semifinals this year.

The soccer team started out this season with a 4-2 victory over South Suburban College. The game was heading towards a blowout win

the Wolves up 4-0 as time was running out. But South Suburban quickly kicked up two goals and was on the move again, but the Wolves put together a wall defense and finished out the match with the victory.

The following three games came as learning process. Disappointing losses to Elgin and Rock Valley College came as a result of missed chances and bad bounces. Putting together an outstanding game against Moraine Valley C.C., the Wolves lost in injury time 2-3. Trillo feels that this game was the best game he had seen out of the team yet. They controlled most of the game until the very end. If it went into overtime, Trillo felt they would have pulled out the victory. A close loss like that only makes the team pull together closer and become hungrier for another win.

This season will test the team's

endurance with the addition of four games to the schedule. One of the many tests of the season came Thurs day, Sept. 11th when they visited the College of Dupage, ranked fifth in the nation by the NCAA. Unfortunately, the Wolves fell to COD 4-1.

Having to play at the Joliet Park District field is tough considering the Wolves lose the aspect of home field advantage.

However, the Wolves get to have two games played at JJC. Playing on the school's property for the first time in two years, it will give the Wolves the opportunity to show off their skills in front of their home crowd.

Trillo is excited about having home field advantage and the support from the fans.

It's a great opportunity to showcase the team's efforts and to help support your local sports scene.

Athletes of The Issue



CJ Abney

Sophomore captain CJ Abney is a volatile part of the men's soccer team at JJC. A first-team All-Sectional athlete out of Reed Caster, Abney will try to help elevate the men's soccer team to a respectable record in what is only the team's second season at JJC. Abney, who has played soccer for nearly 14 years, was part of the Olympic Developmental Pro State Select Team. In order to prepare for games, Abney walks around the field for about 20 minutes while listening to his walkman to get a feel for the grass. His presence on the field will surely be an advantage for the Wolves.

After JJC, Abney plans to attend Columbia and study acoustic and audio arts.

Gridiron heats up with JJC football action

By Adam Fox

The 2002-2003 season was like a dream for the JJC men's football team. First they went undefeated and collected a 21-game winning streak, then they finished by winning the national title, a perfect season.

But like all junior colleges, or two-year programs, there is a short window of opportunity to win before your players transfer. The Wolves had 21 students this year move on to two different schools, and 18 of those transfers were starters. So this means that there are a lot of new players and returning prospects. But one question is on everyone's mind: Can these new players keep performing at the elite level that last year's squad played at?

The key players that need to step up this year in order to replace star quarterback Jim Peyton and receiver Kelvin Hayden are quarterback Jeff Polley and receiver Daron Spencer.

Polley played last year for the Wolves, amounting a quarterback rating of 57.7 percent, 16 for 28 with 351 yards and two touchdowns, in limited playing time.

The defense also took a toll when stud defensive lineman Josh Christman, who set the all-time sack record for JJC last year with 15, transferred to Illinois State University. Darryl Smith, another defensive presence last season, has moved on to Northern Michigan University. In order for the Wolves to replace Christman and Smith—who had 14



sacks—sophomore Rob Ninkovich will need to come in and be the sack freak that Christman and Smith were.

One of the keys to the Wolves young offense is Kelly Baraka. Although he is not the starting running back, he is currently splitting time with Antoine Bagwell, Brandon White and Ajarus Jones. But Baraka will be leaned on for his knowledge of the game and to help out the young backfield. Baraka comes to JJC with a chip on his shoulder after playing for the University of Michigan.

Receiver/tailback Antoine Bagwell scored three times in this

blowout victory, rushing for 197 yards on 34 carries.

Defensively, Rob Ninkovich helped keep the College of Dupage to 97 yards of total offense (2.1 yards per play).

Ninkovich led the team with his passionate play as the Wolves registered five sacks on the Chaparrals.

Ninkovich leads the team with six in three games.

The Wolves are currently ranked 11 on the NCAA national poll, and they want to prove to the country that they are for real and are a threat to repeat the title.



Niccos Scott

Scott, the freshman running back from Springfield Lamphier High School, had a breakout game against College of Dupage. He rushed for 43 yards on nine carries (4.8 average) and two touchdowns. He proved to coaches in the blowout win at College of Dupage that he can be a feature back. Along with rushing for 43 yards, Scott caught two passes for 33 yards and a touchdown. With sophomore receiver/tailback Antoine Bagwell, and former Michigan Wolverine Kelly Baraka getting all of the glory, it is players like Scott that who have propelled the Wolves to victory.

By Andrew Hrubec and Adam Fox



Cubs versus Sox in the playoffs?

By Adam Fox

To have the Chicago White Sox in the playoffs would take some real effort, and to have the Chicago Cubs in the playoffs would take a miracle. But to have them both in the playoffs, in the same year, would take an act of God. But this year, God decided to bless Chicago with two baseball teams in the playoff race, with each having good chances to get to, dare I say it, the World Series.

How did they stay in the race this far into September? Well for the Cubs, they relied on their starting pitching, mainly Mark Prior. Prior has been the dominant pitcher that they knew he would be when they drafted him out of University of Southern California two years ago. Each time he goes out to pitch, his team knows that he will give them every opportunity to win. Also, Dusty Baker has brought

respect and dignity to an organization known for losing.

As for the White Sox, the team has played like Jekyll and Hyde. General Manager Kenny Williams has surrounded the team with talent, and lots of it. Pitchers Bartolo Colon, Esteban Loaiza, and Billy Koch, centerfielder Carl Everett, and second baseman Robbie Alomar were all acquired to push the Sox into October. Granted, some of the acquisitions have fared poorly. But over all, they have kept the team in the playoff race.

But what if by sheer luck both the Sox and the Cubs make it to the World Series? Rivalry and fighting would break out in the streets of Chicago.

With each team, as it currently stands, the final games for each team are totally different. The White Sox are playing the best of the best, the New York Yankees and the Royals.

While the Cubs feed off of the bad teams like the New York Mets, then the lowly Pittsburgh Pirates, then the Cincinnati Reds, the Pirates again, all in all a combined winning percentage of .350.

Each schedule favors each team. For the White Sox, it gives them difficult teams, which is good because the Sox beat the good teams but suck it up against the bad ones. The Cubs finally get a chance to cool off from a hard schedule.

The last time the Sox and Cubs were in a World Series together was 1906. The White Sox beat the Cubs then, and the two have not played together since. So the Cubs have an extra motivation to get there and beat the Sox, but will they?

Women's volleyball hopes to rebound for a successful season

by Andrew Hrubec

The JJC women's volleyball team is bound and determined to rebound from last year's less than stellar season. Entering last season the Lady Wolves were ranked third in the nation, but fell well short of their expectations, posting a 12-28 record.

Lead by captains Rachael Devereaux and Natalie Fieltz, the Lady Wolves are a different team than last season. This year's team is very young, consisting of 10 freshman and only three sophomores. That doesn't concern coach Valerie Jones. She believes that they are a very athletic team, and as they mature as players, they will learn to compete with more heart and fire. As of Sept. 12, the team posted a

respectable 9-5 record.

Jones feels that for the team to be successful, all 13 members must play as a cohesive unit and continue to develop their skills.

After last season's struggles, expectations for the 2003 team are high. Anything less than winning conference and regionals would be a disappointment.

Jones feels that the first match of the season didn't post much of a challenge for the Lady Wolves, but the remainder of the schedule gets more difficult as the season progresses. With many big tournaments left on the schedule, the fate of the season rests in their own hands.



Book theft plagues JJC campus

By Rosalie Lewis

Since the semester began, there have been a total of 32 reports involving textbooks or backpacks being stolen, according to campus police records.

"This is a campus-wide problem," said Campus Police Commander Melvin Comelius. According to the police records, books or backpacks have been taken from the bridge, locker rooms, cars, and just outside the bookstore as well as other places around the campus.

"You might be getting a drink from the vending machine, or set your backpack down to go through line at the cafeteria, and when you turn back around it'll be gone," said Comelius.

"We have people who spend the entire day on campus, just looking for opportunities to steal," said Comelius. He noted that a few arrests had been made, but the problem is ongoing, with thefts being reported as recently as the last two weeks.

When asked who is committing the crimes, the commander referred to a "matrix," composed of both groups of students and their friends and also individuals who are working alone. Most of the perpetrators are students, according to Comelius, but there are a number of non-students involved also.

Police believe the books are be-



A backpack full of expensive textbooks just waiting for a book thief.

Photo by Adam Farcus.

ing stolen with the plan to sell them, either to the campus bookstore or to other outlets which buy used books.

Comelius said that the campus police force is making efforts to patrol

certain areas more closely, and they are making use of surveillance cameras as well. In addition, the commander said that they are working with local police and also local bookstores to make

them aware of the problem.

According to Textbook Manager Brian Campus, the JJC bookstore has recently taken steps to avoid buying back stolen books.

"We now require anyone who is selling back a book to show us proof of I.D.," said Campus. He explained that anyone who buys a book from the bookstore gets entered into a tracking system which is referenced by name and social security number, and the system records which books were purchased. When someone wants to sell a book back, the system is updated to show how much money they were given for the books they sold back.

"If it comes back later that they never bought those books, and the same books were reported stolen, we'll be able to make the connection," said Campus. He added that if they notice anything suspicious, they will immediately report it to campus police.

"We will prosecute to the full extent of the law," said Comelius.

"Be mindful of your surroundings and where you're putting stuff," said Campus, who said that he knew of one student who was doing homework on the bridge and had his book opened to the page he was working on. The student turned around for two minutes to talk to friends and when he turned back to his homework, the book was gone. Based on stories like this, Campus says, "Never leave anything unattended for even the shortest period of time." To contact campus police, dial ext. 2234.

Bookstores battle to stay competitive

By Kevin Milligan

As students finally settle into the daily grind of the fall semester, with deferred bookstore loan payments looming eminently, a realization reestablishes itself upon the masses:

I paid a lot of money for these books!

Monetary concerns aside, the stress of finding the right books, returns, buybacks and exchanges can affect students well into the school year.

Fortunately, students have more than one option to help alleviate their book woes.

Traditionally, the campus bookstore was the sole provider of books for students. That is, until about four years ago. Joliet Textbooks, the off-campus competitor located directly across Houblot Road from the college, offers students the flexibility for price comparison and a more lenient buyback policy that helps to attract business.

"I tell the students to shop around and compare the prices," said Andy Galatte, owner of Joliet Textbooks. Galatte, along with wife Nancy, owns and operates five other stores in the Chicago area and realizes the advantages of being a privately-owned bookstore.

"This isn't Russia. We don't have to be as strict," commented Galatte, referring to the complaints from students about the campus bookstore's strict adherence to policy.

Campus bookstore General Manager Mike Maier said that since the campus bookstore is governed by the school and not privately owned, all profits go back to the college.

"We're not lining our pockets. Anything we make goes right back into the college to help with the programs and departments," said Maier. "By shopping at the bookstore, you're sup-

porting your school."

Galatte believes that his store offers a "no-hassle deal" to the student that the campus bookstore cannot provide, with convenient parking, minimal lines, prices that are often lower and the ability to "barter" with students. For example, if a student wants to purchase a book priced at \$20 but only has \$16, he may allow the student to purchase the book anyway.

"I tell the students to shop around and compare the prices."

Andy Galatte, Joliet Textbooks

Galatte said that because his overhead is a lot lower than the campus bookstore, the markup is lower, allowing the price of the books to be cheaper. "Students spend enough money on books. We're not trying to gouge them," he added.

Joliet Textbooks' buyback policy may be its most attractive feature. Joliet Textbooks will sometimes buy back books in top poor of a condition for the campus bookstore to accept them. Galatte said. While he says that his store doesn't pay as close attention to the degree of condition of the books, the books are useable for resale, with a larger discount given to books with more wear. In addition to paying more for the books, the buyback policy is flexible enough to accept books with slight water damage and book CD-ROM sets with a burred copy of the program substituting for the original.

Galatte feels that his store's presence not only helps the student, but the campus bookstore as well.

"We give them that competitive edge that they didn't have before," said Galatte. "We have a niche."

Though Joliet Textbooks has its advantages, the campus bookstore has unique benefits of its own.

Brian Campus, textbook manager for the past four years at the campus bookstore, cites exemplary customer service and location as two of its highlights.

"Students feel comfortable dealing with the staff," Campus said. "And we're right on campus."

The JJC bookstore is also the only college bookstore in America to offer a bookstore loan, said Maier. The loan allows \$200 for two months—interest free—for every student, and up to \$400 for students enrolled in the nursing program.

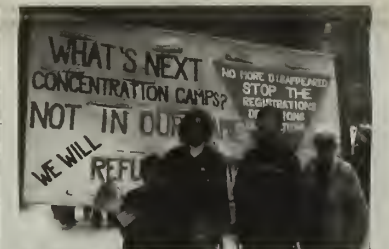
Unlike Joliet Textbooks, the campus bookstore's buyback and exchange policy is clearly detailed and presented on a flyer stapled to every receipt, said Maier. The bookstore now offers year-round buyback for students, which wasn't previously available.

Other advantages over Joliet Textbooks include longer daily hours, extensive online inventories for quick turnarounds for custom ordering and a campus bookstore website for online purchases with free shipping.

Maier also notes that the store serves a higher purpose within the broader community.

Many non-students come in to take advantage of the bookstore's popular holiday displays and sales, and are often influenced to sign up for a class or two, said Maier.

Ultimately, though both bookstores have their own little nuances that will continue to both delight and annoy students for many semesters to come, students can enjoy the freedom of choices that exist for them in the "battle of the bookstores."



Rally attendees demonstrate for rights. Photo courtesy Maria Zamudio.

Freedom Ride Rally fights for equality

By Maria and Roclo Zamudio

This past September 27, 2003, over 1,000 people attended the Freedom Ride Rally that took place at the Federal Plaza in downtown Chicago.

The freedom ride and rally were inspired by the Civil Rights Movement in the '60s. The demonstrators advocated legal recognition, family reunification, civil rights for all immigrants, driver's licenses, the end of the social security "no match letters," immigrant access to higher education, and the right to organize in the workplace. Chicago was one of the major cities connecting the route that will lead Freedom Riders to meet on Oct. 1 and 2 with members of the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C.

Diversity could be seen throughout the crowd. Different races and ethnicities gather to support the same issue.

Deborah Molten stated, "I'm here to support the freedom ride rally. I'm here by myself."

"Immigrants are not only Hispanics," said Jesus Rodriguez, a member of Erie Neighborhood House. "We would like to see more Asians and Europeans involved in this type of activities, not only Hispanics."

Among the speakers there were many important political guest speakers including Secretary of State Jesse White and Congressman Luis Guterres. Another group also gathered in opposition of the Freedom Ride Rally. Approximately 20 people met for a period of around two hours. Tension was felt on both sides, those people supporting the freedom rally and those against it, but they both manifested peacefully.

The final stop for the Freedom Riders will be at the Statue of Liberty in New York, the international symbol for liberty.

The event was organized by the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, Illinois Hunger Coalition, along with several local organizations such as ACCORDA-AFL-CIO, The Archdiocese of Chicago, Centro sin Fronteras, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Chicago Federation of Labor, HERE, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Interfaith Committee, Jobs with Justice, Laborers Union, The Teacher's Union, LCLAA, Metropolitan Alliance of Congregations, Saint Sylvester's Catholic Church, SEIU, UFCW, UNITE. The Erie House, as well as local on-strike workers.

BLAZER VIEW

Patriotism more than flag waving

They who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty or security. —Benjamin Franklin

Since 9/11/01, a lot has changed in America. First, there was the surge of pseudo-patriotism, characterized by public displays of affection for the flag and attempts to work up a few tears every time "God Bless America" was performed. Many people, so-called journalists included, decided the best way to prove their loyalty to the U.S. of A. would be to enshrine our president, stopping short of changing the currency to read "In George we trust."

A bit later, people decided the best way to deal with 9/11 would be to invent a new division of government, the department of Homeland Security. The formation of this new department has given rise to some of the most government empowering, unconstitutional, KGB-style legislation ever introduced in this country. Apparently, the best way to prevent terrorism is to create government-versus-the-people, snitch-rewarding society. Due process, laws regarding unlawful search and seizure, and equal protection have been all but abolished—all in the name of a "safer America." And people are buying into this notion with the gullibility of a teenager bidding on eBay for the chance to marry Orlando Bloom. Anyone who speaks out in opposition to the current administration is labeled traitorous and anti-American.

Well, excuse us, but when did America suddenly change from being the "land of the free and the home of the brave" to the land of the "freedom fries" and home of the naive?

According to the dictionary, the Greek word from which the term "anthem" is derived literally means "to voice opposition." So why is it *un*-American to point out that our nation is disintegrating into a despotic regime before our eyes?

Lots of flags are waving, but the flag stands for the courage of our forefathers to fight tyranny and injustice. Where is that fighting spirit today?

Plenty of people love America just as much as Toby Keith. But it's wrong to translate love of country to a blind loyalty for an administration which has tried to solve our nation's problems by adding new restrictions to its citizens and spending \$87 billion to rebuild a country we declared war on under a flawed premise.

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PHOTO OPINION

Do you like hot air balloons?



"They a 'ight."
Ajarus Jones, 20,
Undecided



"I've never been in one, but I think they're pretty."
Lauren Daniels, 19,
English Education /
Minor in Dance



"I have no opposition towards hot air balloons."
Josh Bult, 20,
Psychology



"I don't like air."
Debora

By Andrew Hrubec and Brian Delaney
Photos by Brian Delaney

COMIC OF THE ISSUE



LETTER POLICY

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters. Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through incoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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Early Childhood Center kicks off to a fun year

By Traci Rader

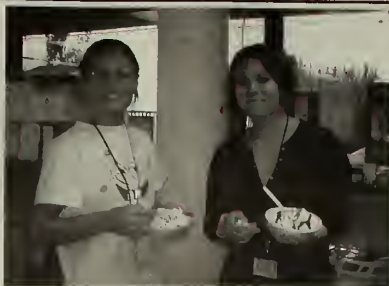
Joliet Junior College's Early Childhood Center (B-1001) celebrated their Ice Cream Social Family Night on Sept. 16.

Parents and preschoolers were able to get acquainted while kids shared their favorite activity with their families.

"It's a great ice-breaker," said Barb Peterson, director of the center.

The preschool houses 70 students at the moment, making it possible for JJC students who are parents of preschoolers to attend college.

There are two full-time teachers and six student assistants who love



Two teachers' aides enjoy a treat at the ice cream social.

Photo by Traci Rader.

being around kids; some plan to make child development and education their career.

At the end of the ice-cream social, Peterson took family pictures to give as a memento of the evening.

APPLE PICKING

Preschoolers experienced stories of Johnny Appleseed the last week in September by taking a field trip on JJC

grounds to their apple orchard. Children picked apples and brought them back to class using the apples for many sensory lessons such as apple peeling, coring, apple printing, baking apple crisps and muffins.

If you are interested in enrolling your son or daughter in this pre-school program, spring enrollment starts in November. For more information, contact Barb Peterson at (815) 280-2280 or stop by B-1001.

College changes refund policy

By Traci Rader

The JJC refund policy has changed.

"In review of our college tuition refund policies, we found out we were being very liberal and decided to clean it up a bit," said Dean Kim Dockus of Enrollment Services. "We are trying to conform to the state tuition policies. Students are responsible to drop or withdraw in an appropriate time," said Dockus.

7-16 weeks

100% refund: within the first 5 calendar days of the start of course

50% refund: 6-10 calendar days

6 weeks or less

100% refund: first two calendar days of the start of course
50% refund: none

Specialized programs**

100% refund: one business day prior to start of course
50% refund: within first 5 calendar days of start of course

Institute of Economic Technology (IET)

100% refund: 3 calendar days prior to the start of the course
50% refund: none

Nurse Assistant (NA)

Lifelong Learning (LLC, LLS)

100% refund: one business day prior to start of the course
50% refund: none

** Specialized programs are programs that use selective admissions for making enrollment decisions. They include Emergency Medical Technician (EMS), Fire Science Technology (FSCI), Nursing (NURS) and Veterinary Technology (VET).

The college reserves the right to make the final decision on all refunds. Refunds for short-term or specialized classes may vary; consult your schedule/bill.

More details on the new policy may be seen on the JJC website or the end of the next class schedule booklet.

JJC Police Reports



A. Vehicle lockout in J student parking lot

8-28 Unknown persons knocked a hole in the dry wall on the bridge by the Project Achieve Office

9-8 Bike taken from outside G Building. Valued under \$300.

9-10 Burglary to motor vehicle. Backpack and textbooks stolen out of car in Centennials Commons parking lot. Valued under \$300.

Burglary to motor vehicle. Books stolen from vehicle in Student Lot 2.

9-15 Textbooks stolen from bridge area. Valued under \$300.

9-16 Three textbooks stolen from A Concourse. Valued under \$300.

9-17 Books stolen from outside book store from the storage shelf. Dana Stevens arrested.

9-17 Small of cannabis reported at Centennial Commons.

9-20 Disorderly conduct at Centennial Commons. Subject screaming about being stabbed. Complaint was unfounded.

9-22 Laptop HP 2001 reported stolen from TV area on bridge.

10-2 Backpack reported stolen from men's locker room. Valued under \$300.

10-2 Backpack reported stolen from bridge area. Valued under \$300.

Prepared by Brian Delaney

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Chef's Table: open for business

By Rosalie Lewis

The Chef's Table, located in J0004 (near the cafeteria), is open Mon.-Thu. From 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. This student-run restaurant has been operating for the past three years as a division of the culinary arts program here at JJC.

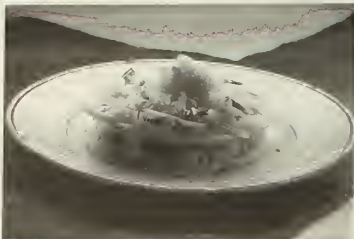
All the staff of Chef's Table are students at the college. In fact, for students in the culinary arts program, working at Chef's Table is a requirement. Freshmen students are assigned to work in the cafeteria kitchen, before moving on to Chef's Table their sophomore year.

"The students get hands-on experience in cooking, serving, baking and writing menus," said Joleen Haviland, a sophomore culinary arts student. "We make all the food ourselves from scratch."

According to Haviland, the menu changes every day. A large variety of gourmet food is served, including soups, salads, sandwiches and ethnic items. A sample menu included Grilled Steak with Sauce Bearnaise, Shrimp Bouillabaisse, Sautéed Cod Vera Cruz and Pork Salad, and for dessert, Trio of Citrus Mousse with Tea Poached Pears. All the items on this particular menu were priced at under \$6, and according to the menu, all tips are donated to a charitable organization.

For anyone trying to decide between a meal at the cafeteria and a meal at the Chef's Table, Haviland says, "Definitely come to the Chef's Table! You'll get more for your buck, better food, plus a wide variety of food to choose from."

To make a reservation or phone order, call the Chef's Table at 280-2345. Menus are posted online at <http://www.jjc.edu/ChefsTable/menu.htm>. For further information, email jvhonh@ajjc.edu.



Feast your eyes on this tasty vegetable tostados. Photo by Adam Farcus.



Chef Mike Gliva prepares a delectable morsel. Photo by Adam Farcus.

JJC enrollment increases due to population growth

By Traci Rader

Even though final numbers cannot be tallied until midyear for spring 2003, student enrollment numbers may hit over 13,000, a high number for JJC.

Dean Kim Dockus, of Enrollment Services, attributes the rise of enrollment to a combination of population growth, the increase in advertising, and the fact JJC is a viable alternative to a four-year college. The increase was an estimated 2% rise from last year.

"Looking at the economics of it all, we are a low cost college in a growing area where students find it a good college to come to as a discovery place," said Dockus.

In a Sept. 22 issue of the *Herald News*, it ranked this area as #1 in increased home ownership in spite of the economy.

The college made a great effort this year to accommodate increased students with quick and efficient park-

ing. The first few weeks of the Fall term, the police arranged students in stadium-like parking to avoid the confusion.

JJC offerings for classes have also increased with 20 or so satellite sights and a greater offerings of the basic classes at the North and South campus. "In the next few years, we will probably have to expand on the North campus evening classes," continued Dockus.

NEWS BRIEFS

Alcohol awareness

Peers Promoting Wellness is sponsoring National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week for the week of Oct. 20. The Alcohol Awareness activities will be on the Main Campus Bridge from 11am-1pm.

Homecoming dance

Black Student Union presents its annual Homecoming Dance. The Homecoming Dance will be on Saturday, Oct. 25, in the JJC Cafeteria from 7pm-12am. The theme for this year is "Spirit of the Wolves." For tickets call 280-2357 extension 2302.

State college fair

On Oct. 21, JJC will be hosting a State College Fair. From 11am-1pm on the C and D concourse. Private colleges and universities will be in attendance.

Private Illinois college and university fair

The Multicultural transfer center will be hosting private colleges and universities on Oct. 31 from 11am-1pm, on the C and D concourses.

Faculty recital

On Sunday, Oct. 19, at 3 p.m., the JJC Fine Arts Department will present a faculty recital by Dr. Thomas Liley, Nancy Liley and Maia Gallagher. They will perform the music of Bach, Mozart, Brandon, Beniciscuto, Larson and Gershwins. Admission is free. For further details, please call the Artsline at 729-9020, ext. ARTS.

Visiting international professors

The International Students Club will host a meeting and reception on Oct. 20 at 2 p.m. in C1053 for two visiting professors. Eeva-Liisa Juvonen will be visiting from Finland, and Antoinette Kuiper is coming from the Netherlands. For more information, contact Berta Arias at 280-2270.

New Clubs

On Oct. 1, the Collegiate Club Council held a meeting to determine what new clubs would be chartered. Five new clubs were up for JJC sponsorship and all but one were officially chartered. New clubs now active are the Catholic Campus Ministry, the Philosophy Club and the Independent Filmmakers Association with Local Actors (IFALA). Additionally, the Life Science Club became the Natural Science Club, and the Interior Design Club was re-chartered after being inactive last year. However, the Anglers' Club was not chartered due to the absence of representation at the Oct. 1 CCC meeting.



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October 15, 2003

Signals Over the Air:

Thursday concert

By Jessica E. Perez

On Saturday Sept. 20, the House of Blues in Chicago was bombarded with Thursday fans. Up until the day of the show there were tickets available, but it was sold out by the time the doors opened.

As the concertgoers walked into the House of Blues around 7 p.m., the first band was already in their set. The band was called Murder by Death. They played a short set of about 15 minutes with no vocals. Many of the concertgoers looked at each other in shock and wondering what time it was after Murder by Death said bye and that they love Chicago.

The second band that erupted on stage was Death by Stereo. The lead singer had a mohawk and began to scream on stage while the rest of the band members played as fast as they could. They had one loyal fan in the balcony that repeated every lyric that was sung. People in the audience began to march a little but soon gave up. The energy was definitely there for them, but the music was lacking in originality. Towards the end of their 45-minute set, some chants of "You suck!" began.

The next band was Year of the Rabbit. Their set was about 30 minutes. Many of the concertgoers got into the music as they played. Unfortunately, some people had a hard time seeing because of the fog machine behind the lead singer and the bright light shining behind him.

Lion King DVD ferociously sucks, again

By Dude Hollowhorse

Yo, dudes! What's going on with my all brothers out there? I'm back and badder than ever. This time, I've got a beef with the Disney cartoon dudes. More important, whoever is responsible for that *Lion King* Special Edition DVD, those fools should have to answer to me.

I am personally offended and disgraced by the repeat appearance of this outrageous, totally degrading, and ultra-racist re-release of the worst animated movie ever. I remember when I was in sixth grade and that movie was all the big hype with all those wack computer digital stunts and everything. It didn't impress them, and it still doesn't impress me now: no matter

Finally, Thursday came to the stage. When the curtain opened, people on the floor rushed the stage. Every Thursday fan there was singing to every song. They did the best versions of "Understanding in a Car Crash," "Cross Out the Eyes" and "For the Workforce Drowning."

Thursday just released their new album, *War All the Time*, and the lead singer said, "If you don't like it, the guys from Hatchback are going to kick your ass."

He also thanked Q101 for not injuring the guitarist this time. The last time Thursday was in Chicago was for Q101's Jambores in 2000. The guitarist dove off the stage from a seven foot tower.

They had a lot of energy and were genuinely grateful to feel the love from Chicago. They played music from their new album that came out only days before and fans already knew the words to the songs. Some of the songs off of the new album were "Division St.," "Signals Over the Air" and "War All the Time." Plus, they also did two encores. One of the songs they played was off their first EP. These are only just a sample of some of the songs that played. They will be supporting the Defcon in Chicago when they come back which will be sometime in November. This reporter will be there, will you? For more information on Thursday visit, Thursday.net. Next concerts: The Starting Line (Oct. 11, Riviera) and Marilyn Manson (Oct. 18, Aragon Brawlroom).



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how many times you repackage it! Plus, if this bogus cartoon wasn't phony enough, some big-money, corporate big shot had the idea to pack in as many stupid extras and whatever that no normal kid would enjoy. This DVD has music videos up the booty, some even had nothing to do with the *Lion King*.

Once 2 a.m. rolled around I couldn't watch anymore of 22-hour long, extra features DVD crap. Poor Walt Disney is spinning in his grave.

In other news, if you're like me and seriously have no time to waste by watching the *Lion King DVD*, go see *House of the Dead* or *Underworld*, or something instead. *Underworld*, by the way, has my ultimate dream

woman cast in the lead role. I remember when I first fell in love with Kate Beckinsale in that dope ass *Serendipity* movie. I give it the Pledge of Approval. And to the *Lion King DVD* - I give it the Cucumber of Dishonor.

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Jason Kuema is a Third-Year student from Medford, NJ. He graduated from Ithaca College with a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology concentrating in Cardiac Rehabilitation.

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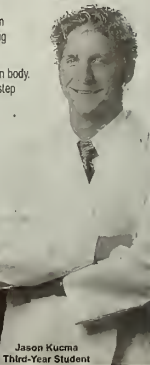
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Jason Kuema
Third-Year Student

JJC performing arts department presents David Ives' play *All in the Timing*

By Rosalie Lewis

Imagine you've just struck up a conversation with a beautiful stranger. Yet somehow, in your attempts to impress and charm you say the wrong thing and ruin your chances for romance. Suddenly, a bell dings and you can start again, erasing your faux pas and giving you the chance to start over.

This probably doesn't sound much like the world you live in, but for characters in David Ives' *All in the Timing*, anything is possible, including the above scenario, which is the basis of the opening act "Sure Thing," one of six one-acts that the performing arts department presented on Oct. 2-5.

Jenna Stworzyjanek and Matt Steffan played Betty and Bill, two strangers who go through many comical gaffes before finally finding common ground. Both actors brought the quirky storyline to life, making it easy to relate to.

In "Words, Words, Words," Heidi Van De Voort, Chad Schumacher and C. J. Daniel starred as Kafka, Swift and Milton, respectively, three monkeys who are locked in a room with typewriters, in an experiment to see if one of them will produce Hamlet. The three actors gave a convincing and hilarious performance that kept the audience laughing throughout.

In "The Universal Language," Taya Langlois portrayed Dawn, a young girl with a speech impediment who is checking out a course in Unamunda. The instructor, Don (Steffan), has advertised this as the new universal language. Don speaks almost all his lines in Unamunda, a nonsensical language reminiscent of Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky." Consisting of fragments from English, German, French, and Latin, as well as some random comedic words and phrases, Unamunda requires listener attention

but isn't totally unintelligible. As Dawn attempts to learn the language, her speech impediment disappears and she finally decides to swear off English forever in favor of Unamunda. At this point, a gull-ridden Don admits that it was just a scam; but Dawn is quick to forgive because she has fallen in love with Don and the two apparently live happily ever after. Langlois and Steffan spoke all their lines with ease and fluidity, an impressive feat considering the oddity of Unamunda.

"Foreplay, or The Art of the Fugue" provided an insightful and humorous look at a Chuck, who uses miniature golf to seduce women. The audience got to observe Chuck go on three dates with different women, with Chuck being played by three different actors (Daniel, Kevin Schaefer and Schumacher). Chuck's date with Amy (Stworzyjanek) seemed to go smoothly; but when Chuck took out Annie (Rachel Glim) he started things off badly by calling her "Amy" repeatedly, and uses the same jokes and clever lines on Annie that he did with Amy. However, Chuck got a payback when he took Alma (Langlois) to the golf course. Alma upstaged Chuck by using many of his classic lines on him, and her forwardness and hilarity persona took him by surprise.

My favorite act of the play had to be "The Philadelphia." Set in a restaurant where the daily specials include pickled pigs feet and cream of kidney soup, this story begins with Mark (Daniel) joining his friend Al (Steffan) for dinner. Mark explains that he's having a horrible day—he tried to pursue some aspirin but the drugstore didn't sell it. The newsstand sold everything besides the paper he wanted. The taxi he rode in didn't go to the street he needed. Al listens and then explains to his friend that it's not just a bad day—Mark has been caught inside a Phila-

delphia, a pocket of existence where the only way to cope is to ask for the opposite of what you really want. Reverse psychology prevails and hilarity ensues as Mark receives excellent service by insulting the waitress (Glim), and proceeds to order dinner by asking for the opposite of his actual wishes. Al, on the other hand, is having a great day, a Los Angeles where nothing can bother him no matter how many bad things happen. Unfortunately, encountering Mark pulls Al into the Philadelphia, so Al is now upset when he remembers that his wife left him this morning and he just got fired.

The final act of the play was "Variations on the Death of Trotsky." Schumacher plays Trotsky, who has a mountain climber's ax stuck in his head. Mrs. Trotsky, played by Van De Voort, shows Trotsky an article she has found in an encyclopedia, which expounds on the details of his death by the ax.

He is disturbed by the article, but appears to be functioning normally and has no memory of the incident in which the ax came to reside in his skull. The unusual and humorous circumstances lead up to a profound moment, as Trotsky says, "Eventually, everyone

enters a room, and they don't realize it, but that is the last room they will ever enter. Well, I am in my last room."

The cast of *All in the Timing* delivered stellar performances, and director Zach Bloomfield can be proud of yet another wonderful production. Stage manager Amanda Sneed and Nicki Blowers, who was in charge of scenic and lighting design, did a great job as well.

Be sure to check out *Romeo and Juliet*, which will be running Nov. 6-9 and 14 & 15. For more information on upcoming events, call the Artsline at (815) 729-9020 extension ARTS.



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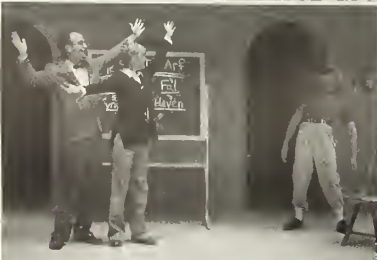
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Nueva Luz/New Light art exhibit on display at JJC

The Laura A. Sprague Gallery is hosting Nueva Luz/New Light, an exhibition of emerging Latin American artists from October 6-October 31.

Featured artists Javier Chavira, Sergio Gomez, Dena Cavazos and Jesus Rodriguez will be present on Thursday, October 23 from 6-8 p.m. to meet the public.

The gallery, located on the second floor of J-building, is open from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. daily.



"The Watchman" by Sergio Gomez



"Untitled" by Jesus Rodriguez

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The next issue of
Blazer

Coming November 15

Murray, Translation anything but lost

By Matt Sheehan

A recent Entertainment Weekly article posed an interesting question. In short, it asked, "Who would have thought that the groundskeeper from *Caddyshack* would be one of the most sought-after actors and prime Oscar bait?"

We are talking, of course, of comedic genius and Chicago native Bill Murray, who made his early rounds in showbiz on *Saturday Night Live*, and in films such as *Ghostbusters* and *Stripes*. However, since 1998's *Rushmore*, Murray has proved his subtle comedic and dramatic skills. His performance in *Rushmore* was sheer brilliance. Most were sure he would get a much-deserved Academy Award nomination. That was not the case. Ditto for *The Royal Tenenbaums*. It was only a matter of time when his surefire dramatic chops would be harvested and brought to Oscar-gen quality.

Lost in Translation is just this. Writer/director Sofia Coppola—daughter of famed Godfather director Francis Ford Coppola—penned this fantastic screenplay about Bob Harris (Murray), a down-on-his-luck, middle-of-life-crisis celebrity in Japan to film a single commercial for Japanese audiences. While there, he becomes "lost" in the ways of understanding and



communicating with the Japanese, even through "translation" (hence the title). In addition, Harris meets up with Charlotte (Scarlett Johansson), the young wife of a photographer (Giovanni Ribisi), who is also another American in Japan.

Charlotte is equally alone in the foreign land as Harris is, and going through her own life crisis—only hers is just starting and Harris' is stuck in the middle.

Together, they bond into a platonic friendship while attempting to figure out what everybody is saying and doing and for whatever reasons. They find answers to each other problems while roaming the streets of Tokyo, in search of understanding.

Bill Murray gives an undeniably astounding performance of a lifetime of an equally exceptional screenplay by Coppola, who also does well with her directing style in her sophomore outing (her first as a director was 2000's *The Virgin Suicides*).

Scarlett Johansson (last year's *Ghost World*) is stunning and three-dimensional in her luminous presentation of a believable woman who is depressed, lonely, and almost vulnerable—she has a very bright future ahead of her.

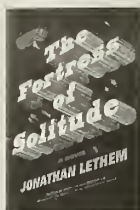
Altogether, this film could, should, and most certainly will give Murray his due—an Oscar nomination. And to steal one of his lines, his performance is "in the hole!"

Book Review:

A flashback to friendship in *Solitude*

By John Sebastian Ferrari

Jonathan Lethem
The Fortress of Solitude



Jonathan Lethem's most recent release *The Fortress of Solitude* is the tale of two motherless young men over a span of 30 years.

It is in the early '70s, when Dylan Ebdus, the son of an aloof hippie painter, and Mingus Rude, the son of an equally aloof Motown singer, first form their friendship. However, the central figures of the work, Dylan and Mingus, have a complicated relationship. The complication is that the white Dylan and black Mingus do not exist in a colorblind world, but rather a predominantly African-American and Latino section of Brooklyn. This backdrop of racial tension forces the boys along different and equally dangerous paths. While Dylan tries to survive daily abuse, Mingus must face a world that would see him fail and fall into obscurity.

It is through these conflicted characters that Lethem touches on a number of themes. Race, graffiti, gentrification, punk rock, abandonment, junk aging, drugs, crime, and survival are all seamlessly included.

Indeed, subtly is perhaps *The Fortress of Solitude*'s greatest achievement. In contrast with many other works, the plot never seems to descend on the reader like a flight of starving vultures. The characters never seem to be on rails forced to a follow a certain fate.

Rather, it would seem that Lethem simply creates each character then releases him into the novel.

While packed tight with symbolism, themes, and at times surreal plot developments, at no point does the novel come off as preachy or over-the-top. Also, while nostalgia and pop culture play a large role, the author presents both in a way that is easily accessible to the reader. Rather than write a furious, unremitting story similar to Palahniuk or Coupland, Lethem distinguishes himself with a slow yet engrossing pace.

Likewise, the sheer detailed beauty of Lethem's prose permits the reader to become enveloped in both the story and the setting.

Jonathan Lethem masterfully created an arduous emotional experience through three decades, that stands out as being one of the best novels released this year. *The Fortress of Solitude*, as any avid reader will find is well worth the effort.

Joe Schmo not your ordinary reality show

By Lisa Friari

What if a show was centered around you, but you had no idea? This is the life of Matt Kennedy Gould, star of the *Joe Schmo Show*. Writers, producers, and actors have spent over a year creating a reality show that isn't real. In addition, the show centers on a person who has no clue it was fake.

The show has every reality TV archetype. Ralph Garman plays the cheesy host, "Hutch." Hutchinson is "the jerk." Gina, the "reality expert," Carlos "Kip" the "token gay guy," Earl the "retired veteran," Dr. Pat, the "therapist," Ashleigh the "spoiled brat," Brian the "buddy" and Molly the "sweet virgin" round out the cast.

Gould thinks he's on a new reality TV show called "Lap of Luxury," where he and the eight others are competing for \$100,000. Each week the contestants compete in a game and someone gets voted off. Unknown to Gould, the writers and producers have planned who gets to leave each week. Once the contestants "Lap of Luxury" plate is thrown into the fire, they give a lengthy speech, often becoming melodramatic. I'm sure the actors and cameramen have to restrain themselves from laughing, while the cameras zooms on Gould's shocked face.

The best part of the show is watching Gould's reactions at the elimination ceremonies. Little does he know, the joke is on him. The show has had some

close calls, with a cast member's exiting speech sounding a little too much like the speech given by Sue from *Survivor One*. Also, on a recent episode, Gould could not take the exit of Earl, and cried unbearably.

"It's hard when you're dealing with real people and real emotions," Gould said. As pathetic as it was seeing him cry, it was highly humorous, which is the whole point of the show. Mocking the dozens of reality TV shows that have come out in the past couple of years.

Scrambling to make Gould feel better after the exit of Earl, the producers arranged for a "Sumo" challenge where the contestants wear Sumo suits and fight for a chance at immunity.

The first round was Matt vs. Dr. Pat, in which Gould slammed down Dr. Pat. Dr. Pat suffered a head injury, which wasn't part of the script. Now with the exit of Earl and hurting Dr. Pat, Gould was near a breakdown. But by the end of the episode, Matt had won the Sumo challenge and given his prize to Dr. Pat, so everything was neatly resolved.

The newly christened SpikeTV has a funny show on its hands. Although it is the "First Network for Men," any fan of reality TV shows will enjoy Joe Schmo and his mishaps in this fake world.

The *Joe Schmo Show* airs Tuesday nights at 8p.m. on SpikeTV.

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TV Review: *The O.C.*: not just another teen show

By Lisa Frieri

Ever felt like an outsider looking in? This is the basis for the new show *The O.C.* (which stands for Orange County). The show centers around Ryan Atwood, a good kid from the

wrong side of the tracks. His mischievous ways have put him in the hands of Sandy Cohen, his public defender.

Ryan is set to go to juvenile hall for helping his brother steal a car until

Sandy takes him in at his posh Newport Beach home. This upsets Sandy's wife, Kirsten, but delights his 17-year-old son, Seth. Ryan's first outing at Newport is a fashion show, where everyone is wondering about

the new kid in town. Ryan befriends the girl next door, Marissa, when he goes outside for a cigarette, while she is waiting for her boyfriend, Luke to pick her up. Ryan slowly realizes that Marissa, much like everyone else in the O.C., has multiple problems although her life seems picture perfect.

As each week goes on, the audience gets to know Ryan, Marissa, Seth, and Summer, Seth's crush who is Marissa's close friend.

Just as Ryan's life seems to get better, Marissa's seems to be crumbling. She soon realizes her father has financial troubles, her boyfriend is jealous of her friendship with Ryan, and her parents' marriage is falling apart. As her friendship with Ryan gets stronger, she starts to question her

relationship with boyfriend Luke.

Seth, who was also an outsider, is slowly starting to find the social scene thanks to Ryan. With his bad boy looks, Ryan soon has the all the girls swooning, much to the chagrin of the guys, including Luke. Although the show has been compared to other Fox shows, such as *90210* and *Melrose Place*, it doesn't throw the audience off with unintelligible dialogue, a la *Dawson's Creek*. *The O.C.* does not try to sugar coat the party lifestyle in which the spoiled kids of the O.C. live in, showing kids doing cocaine, and in the pilot episode, Seth walking in on three kids in a bath tub.

Unlike the other fluff shows on Fox, such as *Paradise Hotel*, *The O.C.* actually has substance.

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* From "America's Best Colleges" issue of U.S. News & World Report, September 1, September 8, 2003. Rankings are based on national doctoral universities offering undergraduate degrees.
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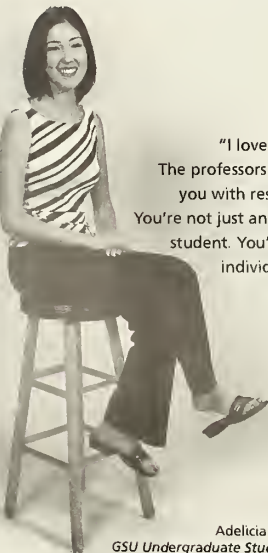
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Route 66 hosts nationals

By David Cummings

Welcome Race Fans! That's the sign you see when you know you are getting close to the quarter-mile drag strip known as Route 66 in Joliet where the NHRA holds one of their biggest events, the CARQUEST Auto Parts NHRA Nationals.

Before the races begin, fans walk around the pits waiting for the first car to be fired up and get a few souvenirs autographed by their favorite drivers. There are no words that can nighteously describe what it's like to stand behind a 7,000 horsepower top fuel dragster when they test the engine. You can't see, you can't hear, and you can't breathe. The nitro racing fuel is enough to make tears fall from a grown man's eyes.

"They truly are tears of joy," said lifelong race fan Rodney Howe. And when the crew taps the throttle the sound is loud enough to make more than half the crowd jump and wonder what just happened.

The first division to race is the Nitro Harley bikes. These bikes make everyday motorcycles look like a kid's first bicycle. During this time, however, most fans are still lingering in the pits getting their lungs full of nitro. The winner of the finals was Mark Conner, beating Doug Vancil 6.733 seconds to 16.818 seconds.

The pro-stock cars are the second group of racers to go and they go fast, reaching speeds close to 250 mph. In the semi-finals, Jeg Coughlin takes the win by one hundredth of a second and qualifies to race Greg Anderson.

The final race for pro-stock cars was between Coughlin and Anderson. The race was so close that most of the fans in the stadium thought Anderson was the winner, but as it turned out

Coughlin won by Anderson redlining at the start of the race.

Funny cars mean serious business in drag racing. The stadium is nearly full when the first two cars do their burn outs and then creep up to the starting line. Suspense fills the hearts of the fans as Castrol Synec owner John Force races against his own teammate Tony Pedregon. The lights on the board turn green and in a matter of seconds,

Force is beaten by his own driver.

In the finals, Pedregon races against the driver of the Checker Schucks Kraken car, Phil Burkart. Pedregon takes off leaving the opposition at the starting line. It turns out that the Checker car had a minor oil leak and they shut it down for safety purposes, giving away the race. Pedregon's score was 4.769 seconds at 316.52 miles per hour.

Finally it's time for top fuel dragsters, the bread and butter of NHRA drag racing. The cars burn 80 gallons of nitro per race. They go from zero to 350 mph in 4.5 seconds or less. The stadium is now filled to see two 7,000 horsepower vehicles take off at the same time. During the semi-finals Miller Light driver Larry Dixon almost flipped his car, but managed to stay on track and win in the finals with retired

Budweiser driver Kenny Bernstein who is racing for his son Scotty Bernstein after a bad crash that left Scotty Bernstein unable to race. Bernstein won 4.503 seconds to 4.638 seconds at 328 miles per hour making this race his 36th championship in top fuel racing.

2003 CarQuest Auto Parts NHRA Nationals was a great race for the winners and the fans.

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Men's football takes lunge forward

By Andrew Hrubec

The Wolves are back on track. After a season opening loss to William Rainey Harper College, the Wolves seem to have fixed all that was wrong in the world and put together a string of impressive wins.

Running backs Antoine Bagwell, Kelly Baraka and Niccos Scott have been outstanding. Establishing a solid running game is a key ingredient to a good offense.

With the running game in tact, the Wolves are able to keep their opponents in check by attacking with a good mix of running and passing.

Sophomore quarterback Jeff Polley has taken advantage of athletic wide receivers such as Daron Spencer and Nathan Hardwick.

In six games, Polley already has 10 touchdown passes. While only seeing limited playing time, freshman quarterback Kevin Warner has compiled 272 yards on 14-19 passing with two touchdowns.

Defensively, the Wolves are led by sophomore Rob Ninkovich.

Through six games, Ninkovich has recorded 30 tackles and thirteen sacks.



Wolves are flying high after 48-6 thrashing of COD. Photo by Matt Furlane

"At the mid-way point of the season we are coming together as a team, but there is still room for improvement," coach Bob MacDougall said. "If we can keep our focus and execute properly these next couple of weeks, we should be in good shape towards the end of the season."

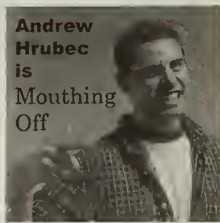
With remaining games left against Air Force JV, Grand Rapids Community College, and Harper College, it once again appears that the Wolves are the team to beat.

MEN'S FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

8/30 Harper College 22 - JIC 21
9/6 JIC 55 - Rock Valley College 7
9/13 JIC 34 - College of DuPage 0
9/20 Elmhurst C.C. 15 - JIC 40
9/27 JIC 28 - Grand Rapids C.C. 21
10/4 Rock Valley College 0 - JIC 53
10/11 College of DuPage 4 - JIC 8
10/17 Air Force JV @ JIC
10/25 Grand Rapids C.C. @ JIC
11/1 JIC @ Harper College

Athletes' antics no model for kids

Andrew Hrubec is Mouthing Off



Athletes were at one time respected for their hard work ethic and athletic ability. People could respect what athletes did because they were giving their respective sport everything that they had. Oh, how times have changed.

The days of hard-nosed athletes like Dick Butkus, Walter Payton and Michael Jordan are gone. There are still tremendous athletes in every sport, but do they always give 110 percent? And for those who don't give it their all, what's their motivation?

"I feel that pro athletes start out playing for enjoyment of the game, but once the money starts rolling in they begin to do it more for the money," stated JIC student Mark Perrine.

Alex Rodriguez, the premiere shortstop in baseball, signed the richest contract in sports history. Rodriguez's \$252 million contract doubled the previous mark which was held by NBA star Kevin Garnett. Garnett re-signed with the Minnesota Timberwolves in 1997 for \$126 million dollars.

With athletes making record amounts of money in every sport, it's no wonder that many of our favorite sports are full of prima donnas.

Terrell Owens, wide receiver for the San Francisco 49ers, is a more than adequate example. Owens, whom is a terrific athlete, is not best known for his athletic ability on the football field.

Instead, Owens is known for his childish antics and outbursts. In the 2000 season, Owens proceeded to

celebrate a touchdown by running to the middle of Texas Stadium, the home of the Dallas Cowboys, and place the football in the middle of the team logo while looking skyward. The 2002 season lead to such touchdown celebrations as the infamous Sharpe incident and the "I'm a cheerleader" routine.

When asked how he feels about athletes showing during games, JIC student Chris Brownson replied, "I like it. I say if you don't like them celebrating, don't let them score."

It's hard to believe that at one time an athlete would hand the football to an official after scoring a touchdown, or a baseball player would just simply drop his bat to the ground and hug around the bases. These days it seems like a competition amongst athletes to see who does the better dance or taunt.

It's tough to say that youthful exuberance should be reprimanded in sports, but when does it cross the line?

Regardless of whether or not they accept the responsibility of being role models, they are in fact just that. Millions of children watch their favorite superstars perform at the professional level everyday. Some players respect the integrity of the sport in which they play. But there are so many athletes that don't. And for those who feel the need to do the funky chicken after every touchdown, or strut down the court after every dunk, they should think about how their role models would feel seeing them make a mockery out of the sports in which they helped build.

Women's soccer gets their kicks

By Adam Fox

When the United States Women's Soccer Team entered the World Cup this year, it was a continuation of an American dynasty. The last time America hosted the women's World Cup, the home team came away with the gold. But what does that mean for our women soccer stars?

Well for the women's soccer team at JIC, it means the next time you see a World Cup match we might be represented highly.

This seasons Women's soccer team is far from being the best in the nation, but they are doing surprisingly well. Leading the way for the Lady Wolves have been forwards Ashley Mefford and Jana Underwood. Mefford is leading the Lady Wolves with 10 goals and three assists, and Underwood currently is the assist leader with 10 assists and also five goals.



Wolves dominate the field. Photo by Matt Furlane

The Lady Wolves have a record of four and five as of Oct. 6, 2003, with seven games to play. That is double the wins form last year.

So what has been the key to victory? Well it has been an unstoppable offense, and a above-average defense. Along with Mefford and Underwood leading the charge on offense it has been midfielder Andrea Hulston and forward Kim Grzanka.

Defensively, Kristina and Katrina Kingman have formed into a formidable pair of defenders.

However, sometimes even the best lose. This was the case when the Lady Wolves lost to Moraine Valley Community College on Thursday Oct. 2.

The Wolves were dominated by a score of 7-1.

The lone goal scorer was Underwood, with Mefford on the assist.

Will this mean that the Lady Wolves will give up? Never, not as long as Dan Furlane is their head coach. For every game and practice, he brings an intensity about him, that helps propel his team to victory. Let's hope he can motivate these female athletes to many more wins.

Men's soccer keeps on kicking away

By Adam Fox

The men's soccer team started the season with three straight losses to Elgin Community College, Rock Valley College and then to Moraine Valley Community College. They did not even lose with dignity, they let the three teams score a combined 10 goals, while they only scoring three, collectively. So when the Wolves played Rock Valley College again on Sept. 30, they were looking for some revenge.

On the verge of a three game win streak, the longest of the season, the Wolves were hungry for some revenge. With this in mind, the Wolves played one of their best games of the season. Leading the charge offensively was Sophomore Forward Fernando Garcia, who scored three goals, what is called a hat trick, his first of the season.

By the end of the first half the Wolves were leading 2-0, but in the second half, the Golden Eagles came back with an attacking style offense. However, a good defense always outplays a good offense. And this was the case for the game, the Golden Eagles could only manage one goal, while the Wolves tallied three more,



Men's soccer 4-1 in NAC play this season.

Photo by Matt Furlane

with the final score 5-1. Also amounting goals for the Wolves were Freshman Jose Luis Becerril and Tyler

Roblstein.

The Wolves now have a record of 6-5 overall, and 4-1 in the NAC.

Athletes of the Issue



Shawn McKeown

When critics analyze a football team, they usually never mention anything about the punter. This often maligned position, which the players are often labeled as "non-athletic." But despite this criticism, the position of punter is critical for team. And for are Wolves, Shawn McKeown is one of those critical players. McKeown has punted 29 times for 1102 yards, an average of 37 yards per punt. Which may not seem like great statistics for a punter, but those numbers rank him number 11 in the NCAA ranking of punters. They say that a strong defense and great field position wins football games, and McKeown does half of that for the Wolves.



Janna Underwood

Every team needs a hero someone they can count on, and for the lady Wolves soccer team, Janna Underwood is one of those special players. Underwood is the leading the team in assist with 10, and is also the has the second most goals on the team, with 5. Underwood a Sophomore who graduated from Lockport Township, plays forward for the team.

GSA sponsors drag show

By Dave Cummings
and Amanda Stolfo

On Oct. 11, Joliet has conservative foundation was given quite a shake when Phoenix, Alysha, Jennifer, Victoria, Sable and Sky, the drag queen divas from Manuevers, Joliet's gay bar on the east side, and a professional Chicago drag queen, Babs, strutted and sang from 7-10 p.m. in the cafeteria to celebrate National Coming Out Day in a way Joliet's never seen before.

"Fags Outside" was what the sign read by the doors that lead outside. The sign wasn't meant to be taken in a homophobic way, but in regards to taking cigarette breaks outside. For those who are unfamiliar, "Fag" is a term the English use in place of the word cigarette, but in America the word is commonly used to ridicule someone with same-sex preferences.

The Gay-Straight Alliance was put together to stop that kind of negativity and to make homosexuals and straights more comfortable with each other.

The 17 and over show was sponsored by the Gay Straight Alliance, which charged \$3 and a canned good at the door. All the canned food items and half of the proceeds were donated to the Aids Ministry of Illinois, which will be known in the future as AGAPE, Inc. The other half of the money raised is being put back into the GSA fund to pay for a conference trip to Iowa in February, sponsor Kate Lopez-Gilmore said.

After some difficulty with the make up, which kept melting off, the show started as scheduled at 7 p.m. The first dancer to go on stage was Ms. Jade who came out in a steel bar with matching silver shorts and then lip-synched the words to the song "Freakazoid" and did a provocative dance reminiscent of the robot. The next dancer was Ms. Veronica who did the song "Dirty" by Christina Aguilera. Then came Ms. Skye followed by Ms. Sable, Ms. Babs, and 2002 Ms. Gay Joliet, "Ms. Phoenix."

Lopez-Gilmore said it was primarily advertised through the gay population to make the event secure and "gay friendly." The event was also publicized sparsely to avoid protesters, and extra security was brought in to prevent trouble.

However, trouble was nowhere to be found, as the show drew a crowd of 175 people without a single fight. Attendees included high school and JJC students, "groomies" of the local divas and Babs, and other people in the community. Lopez-Gilmore and co-sponsor Jason Fichtel both described the show as a "success" and "fun."

Everyone appeared to have a great time. The event was more than just entertainment, though; it was about being comfortable with who you are and with different types of people.

According to Lopez-Gilmore, one of the cops present said, "This is exactly how all school events should be."

Lopez-Gilmore said even one of the divas' mother was present to see her son perform for the first time. Lopez-Gilmore said she thinks it may

See GSA on page 7

Treats aplenty at JJC!



Children from JJC's child care center trick-or-treat on campus. See another photo on page 6. Photo by Adam Farcus

Speech team wins at tourney

The JJC Speech Team went to its first tournament of the year on Saturday, Oct. 25, at Moraine Valley Community College.

Seven JJC students attended, and three of them won awards. Attending the tournament were Jenna Stworzyjanek, Kevin Schaefer, Matt Steffen, Dan Vergo, Edwin Alms, Chad Schumacher, Julia Romashko and Josh Dake.

The team came home with trophies in the five events. Stworzyjanek took first place in Dramatic Oral Interpretation and Intersquad Extemporaneous Duo Interpretation, and won third place in Poetry Interpretation.

For Programmed Oral Interpretation, Schaefer took second place and Alms took fifth.

Other schools at the tournament included Northern Illinois University, Northwestern University, North Central College (4-year schools) and College of DuPage, College of Lake County, Harper College, Kishwaukee Community College, McHenry Community College, Prairie State and Elgin Community College.

The next competition will be Dec. 6 at the College of Lake County.

Last year, the JJC speech team put in a strong performance at the Phi Rho Psi National Convention and Tournament, with seven JJC students competing. One JJC student, Jamie Motz, was awarded a silver medal for oral presentation. He was the first JJC medalist since 1987.

Phi Rho Psi is a national forensics honorary society for speech students attending two-year colleges.

JJC Foundation hosts annual scholarship awards

Joliet Junior College Foundation co-sponsored the 20th Annual Scholarship Awards Recognition and Appreciation event on Sunday, October 19.

Over 450 persons attended the recognition ceremony. Students who were recipients of scholarships were honored for their dedication to the pursuit of education.

Also in attendance were scholarship donors, JJC administration, JJC staff, Foundation board members, Alumni Association Board members and friends of Joliet Junior College.

President J.D. Ross welcomed recipients and donors. Dr. Alan Hardersen, vice president for student services delivered a statement of purpose. Remarks were made by Ann O'Neill, JJC Foundation board member and Dr. Denis Wright, vice president for academic affairs.

In academic year 2003-2004, the JJC Foundation raised \$295,639 to award 584 scholarships to students. The Joliet Junior College Foundation works to fund scholarships that will enable students to expand opportunity through education.

The Foundation's priority is to provide students within the college's district the opportunity to better themselves through education.

Kristin Mulvey, Joliet Junior College executive director of institutional advancement explains, "The importance of these gifts is event greater



The Blazer's own Steven Awalt chairs with JJC Foundation member Helen Hardtharber.

Photo courtesy of Mike O'Brien

given our current economy and cuts that have been made to education funds.

"Without these gifts many of our students would not have the opportunity to pursue the excellent academics

programs that the college provides." Information courtesy Kelly Myers, Alumni Relations

BLAZER VIEW

No shortage of candidates for 2004 presidential election

Just when you thought that all the interesting political candidates were fading into the smoky California skyline, along comes the race for a bigger office with even more candidates—the 2004 presidential election.

Voters have plenty of options. Bush is running again, of course, but he's not the only one. With nine democratic candidates and no clear front-runner, this race is shaping up to be an interesting one.

Among the democrats, we have Carol Moseley Braun, whose victory would make her the first female African-American president. Or how about Governor Howard Dean of Vermont, whose website features a Halloween-themed graphic that says, "Bush frightens me. Frighten Bush back! Contribute today!" The site goes on to say that the first 10,000 people to give \$31 or more get a "Bush frightens me—Vote Dean" button.

And then there are the independents and third-party candidates. While the major parties would like to persuade the public that an independent has no chance of ever winning the White House, these people deserve a chance to be heard.

These days, it seems like Washington is overrun by blue bloods and good ol' boys, with corruption seeping into both parties. Maybe it's time to shake things up a little with a new party and a different perspective.

Take for instance Michael Badnarik, the libertarian candidate. According to his website, one of his main goals is to reinstate the rights of the American people and prosecute any unconstitutional acts. For example, he favors decriminalizing drugs and the removal of all gun control laws.

Then there are whimsical candidates, such as Henri Calitri, who is quoted on www.politics1.com as saying, "I am looking forward to creating a large research office in discovering immortality for a human being to live til the age of 925 years."

With candidates like these in the running, every American should be anticipating next year's election. Do some research and pick a candidate you like. There are plenty to choose from.

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Question of the Issue

What is the best method for finding a parking space?



"I usually just drive around 'til I eventually find one, but then I'm late to class. Or park on the grass, but then you get a ticket."

Ellen Raimondi, Geology



"I just always go to the south lot and if there's not spot, I park in the grass."

Rich Lakeberg, Graphic Design



"Just take the first one you see, otherwise you waste time looking for one..."

Karen O'Leary, Elementary Education



"Circling the block."

Shamill Muhammad, Fine Arts

Photos by Adam Fox

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Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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Three religions meet at crossroads of tolerance

By Jim Allosco

On Oct. 20, Joliet Junior College hosted a lecture presented by Rasheed Hossain, titled "People of the Book." Hossain is the director of Mid East Studies at the University of Chicago and his speech was done accordingly on the history and nature of Islam.

Not only did the two-hour speech contain interesting history on the Middle East region, but Hossain also included many other religions and cultures. Much of the history he discussed was on Christianity and Judaism, since these same traditions and beliefs of course are deeply rooted in the Islamic faith and culture. Hossain constantly supplied evidence of the intersection of these three religions.

One such example is when Hossain provided ten passages from the Torah (Old Testament), the Bible and the Qur'an, and asked the audience to guess which book the passages came from. Many of them seemed similar to familiar passages from the Torah and Bible, but to almost everyone's surprise, Hossain had copied all 10 of the passages straight from the Qur'an.

That is the overall message Hossain was attempting to provide at the event. He said that he wasn't trying to preach or to convert anyone to Islam. His main goal was to educate everyone in the hopes that tolerance of other religions will soon follow.

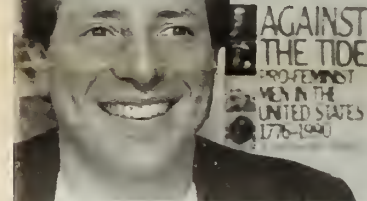
Among the 30 people who dropped by the lecture were two professors visiting JJC from Finland and The Netherlands. Other attendees included many JJC staff and students.

JJC student Carl Guzman attended the event. He said he came because the speech looked interesting, which seemed to be the case for most participants. Guzman added that he learned about the event through the International Students Club (ISC).

The ISC sponsored the speech and is preparing another lecture on Thursday, Nov. 13. Anyone interested in the next event can contact Berta Anas, head of the ISC, at 280-2270, or drop by an ISC meeting in C-1058 every other Monday at 2 p.m.

Anyone interested in Rasheed Hossain's presentation can contact him at rhossain@midway.uchicago.edu.

Sociologist addresses gender equality issues



Michael S. Kimmel is a sociologist and author who has received international recognition for his work on men and masculinity. Kimmel is National Spokesperson for the National Organization for Men Against Sexism (NOMAS), and has lectured at over 200 colleges and universities.

By Maria Zamudio

On Tuesday, Oct. 28, sociologist Michael Kimmel made a presentation in the JJC Theater. The author of *Gendered Societies* talked about relationships between women and men. He began by talking about his 16 million-selling book, *Men are Venus* from Mars. This book emphasized the differences between both genders, rather than the similarities. He compared women's attitudes towards men from 1970 to 2000, explaining data from a survey. Nowadays, women expect more from men and are more disappointed, said Kimmel. These attitudes have to do with the changes women have undergone over the past 30 years.

Kimmel identified four fundamental areas of societal change that have impacted women.

First, women made gender visible. Gender is one of the fundamental building blocks of self identity. The first study focusing on women took place in 1972. The second area of change was the incorporation of women into the labor force. Third is the balance between work and family. Women are forced to have a second shift; this refers to the household tasks women have to perform. And finally, attitudes have changed with regard to women's sexuality. Women today feel that they

are entitled to pleasure.

Kimmel also explained the masculine role in American society. American masculinity is linked with lack of emotional vulnerability. Masculinity is also linked to economical success. According to Kimmel, sexual harassment, which creates a hostile environment has been used in the work place to remind women their place in a "men's world."

However, Kimmel pointed out that women's equality is not a loss for men, but rather a gain for men. Men would have better relationships with women, men, sons, and daughters. Regardless of ethnic background or traditions, men want to be good fathers, said Kimmel. Men would be better parents if they would spend quality time instead of quality time. Kimmel suggested that if men started to assume more responsibility in child rearing, women would be able to have both a career and a home.

Other topics Kimmel addressed were date and acquaintance rape and AIDS. He stated that rape would stop all together if men would make better choices about their bodies.

Kimmel closed his lecture with a quote from a New York journalist dating back to 1917: "Feminism may make it possible for the first time for men to be free."

NEWS BRIEFS

Epicurean Festival

The Culinary Arts/Hospitality Management Department's Epicurean Festival of Food and Wine will be held on Friday, Nov. 21, at the Renaissance Center on the City Center Campus. The cost is \$50 per person, and all are welcome. Tickets are available in room J-0009.

English Faculty Tenure

Stacey Murphy of the English and Foreign Language Department and Michelle Myer of the Business Department received tenure status beginning January 2004.

"Both Ms. Murphy and Ms. Myer have already made important contributions to Joliet Junior College and provide excellent role models for other new faculty," said Dr. Ocasio Wright, vice president of Academic Affairs.

Romeo and Juliet

The Fine Arts Theatre production of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet are now on stage. The play runs from Nov. 6-9 and 14-15. The cost for this epic tale is \$5 for the General Public; \$4 JJC faculty, Senior Citizens and non-JJC students; and \$2 for JJC students. Tickets may be purchased at the Fine Arts Theater Box Office.

Flu Shots

The JJC is offering Flu Vaccinations for JJC students, faculty and friends on Nov. 12, 2003 from 11am-1pm. The vaccination will be open to anyone 18 years and older, and will be given out in the Cafeteria. Prices for the Flu Vaccinations are \$16, and Pneumonia are \$25.

The Chef's Table

The Chef's Table will be selling Starbucks Coffee's regular full blend at \$1 per cup for a limited time. Each cup earns a raffle ticket for a free

ticket to the Third Annual Epicurean Festival of Food and Wine. All proceeds will be donated to a local charity.

Your Future Begins Today

International speaker and motivator Jason Oorsey presents, *Your Future Begins Today* on Tuesday, Nov. 4, from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. in the T-Conference Center. A best-selling author of two books, by age 21, Oorsey has also appeared as an expert on NBC's *Today Show* and ABC's *The View*. Oorsey will focus on how students should set goals, obtain internships, find internships, and how to market skills and talent. For more information or to make reservations, contact the JJC Career Services Office at ext. 2756.

Brown Bag

Fine Arts Professor Sue Malnberg gives the *History of the Broadway Musical* on Thursday, Nov. 6. The Brown Bag presentation takes place at noon in room J-0006.

R.I.C.H. in

Quality winners

September's R.I.C.H. in Quality winners are Dianne Schmitt of Business Services; Jan Walters of Veterinary Technology; Jewell Dennis of Project Achieve; Julie Clark of Information Technology; Kate Lopez-Gilmore of Project Achieve; Linda Gooch of the Business Office; Lori Carpenter of Business Services; Pam Campbell of the Mail Center; and Pam Dilday of Student Services.

Dennis Forest of the Physical Plant recently completed a four-week training program in facilities management by the Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers.

Film Screenings

I.F.A.A. Independent Filmmakers

Alliance with Local Actors) will be holding a "screening" on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. in E-1002. This club was formed to provide JJC students with the opportunity to contact and network with others involved in and interested in working together on existing or future film media projects.

Anyone interested in participating and networking with others interested in film media projects should attend the Nov. 19 meeting where several club members will be showing and discussing their projects. Whether you have worked with film media or not, plan to attend! Popcorn, treats and fun are guaranteed!

Native American Coffee House

November is Native American Heritage Month at Joliet Junior College. In recognition of this event, the JJC Native American club will hold its annual Native American Coffee House (which includes food, music and storytelling). The event takes place Wednesday, Nov. 12, 7-9 p.m. on the bridge. It's free and everyone is invited!

Fine Arts Music Recital

Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 11 a.m., there will be a music recital by the fine arts music students. It will be held in the Fine Arts Theater and all are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Jerry Lewis at ext. 2232.

Pumpkin contest winners

The Culinary Arts/Hospitality Management department recently held a pumpkin carving contest. Entries were judged by Food Service and Community Relations, and the winners have been announced. First place went to Academic Affairs, while Culinary Arts students Rob Robinson and Penny Eller took second and third place, respectively.

The next issue of

Blazer

hits newsstands on November 19.

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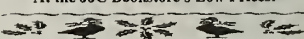
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Vet Tech students keep K-9 safe

Joliet Junior College's veterinary technology students recently presented Rex, a German Shepherd police dog from Czechoslovakia for the Wilmington Police Department, with a bulletproof vest. His owner and partner, Officer Kevin Delaney, was very thankful for the donation.

Vet tech students raised \$1,000 to buy the vest.

"I am a big advocate of police dogs since I got Rex," said Delaney. "You have to pick the right dog for the environment you are working in, but I recommend dogs for community colleges, or for anybody."

Rex is a multi-task dog that is not only highly trained to find drugs and track criminals, but also is excellent with children. He currently takes part in a reading program in Wilmington. Students in the second and third grade take turns reading to the dog three

hours a week to help develop their skills.

"The students don't feel pressure from the dog when reading," said Delaney. "Teachers have seen big differences in the reading ability of the 15-20 students that have already read to the dog."

"I am really proud of the students and sponsors of the vet tech program," said Dr. Scott Keller, coordinator and professor of veterinary technology. "A lot of people talk about doing things, but our students actually do them. This is the fifth dog vest they have donated—we're talking \$5,000. Most student clubs that raise money have pizza parties, but our students distribute the money to good causes, and that makes me so proud," said Keller.

Information courtesy Diana M. Rusch, Public Information Specialist



From left, Chief Peter Comanda, Commander Melvin Cornelius and Officer Kevin Delaney pose with Rex.

Photo by Brian Delaney

JJC Police Reports



Tues. 10-7 Fire Alarm. Pulled box in Centennial Commons, Building 5. No suspects or witnesses.

Tues. 10-7 Theft. Subject tried to pass counterfeit \$20 bill in cafeteria.

Wed. 10-8 Medical. Gravy burn on hand in cafeteria. Person transported to St. Joseph Hospital.

Fri. 10-10 Medical. Hydrochloric acid in face at D 2001 chemistry lab.

Tues. 10-14 Cannabis use reported at Centennial Commons. Incident was unfounded.

Wed. 10-15 Disorderly subjects reported on bridge.

Thurs. 10-16 Theft. A psychology text book reported stolen from the bridge. Valued under \$300.

Thurs. 10-16 Agency assist to Joliet Police Dept. Report of fight at Centennial Commons Room 327 Building 3.

Unknown number of participants. RA reported hearing someone had a knife. Carl Johnson arrested.

Mon. 10-20 Theft. Purse reported missing from in D-2001. Valued under \$300.

Mon. 10-20 Theft from motor vehicle. Purse reported missing from vehicle in the South Lot 1.

Tues. 10-21 Medical Assist. Complaint of dizziness. Joliet Fire Dept. transported person to St. Joseph Hospital.

Fri. 10-24 Theft. Microsoft XP textbook reported stolen from bridge. Valued under \$300.

Fri. 10-24 Medical Assist. Dog bite reported from Vet Tech program.

Mon. 10-27 Possession of Cannabis. Maintenance personnel found cannabis in Centennial Commons.

Prepared by Brian Delaney.

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Professor Profile: Dr. Jason Fichtel and Stacey Murphy

By Kevin Milligan

Their office is a flurry of activity during any given time of the school day. Their open door serves as both constant invitation and welcome retreat to discuss a wide array of topics, ranging from the literary to the intensely personal, oftentimes covering both in the same sitting.

Yet for Dr. Jason Fichtel and Stacey Murphy, two of the English and Foreign Language Department's promising young minds, one gets the sense that actual classroom instruction is only a mere fraction of their vision of the teaching experience.

"We're breaking down the 'podium barrier,' and the comfort level breeds confidence in students," Murphy commented. "We don't just teach our classes and go home."

Fichtel, a former Oswego High School graduate, went on to Illinois State University to complete his undergraduate and master's work, while attaining his doctorate degree at the University of New Mexico.

Murphy, a product of JJC, transferred to Eastern Illinois University to complete both her bachelor's and master's programs.

The teachers' affection for litera-

ture is evident in their schedules, with both shouldering a myriad of course work that includes ENG 120, Creative Writing, and ENG 105-106, British Literature (Murphy), and ENG 107-108 Contemporary Literature (Fichtel). Both also teach several rhetoric classes.

Murphy and Fichtel agree that students connect with characters and elements in literature that may apply to their own individual lives, thus creating a very intimate relationship with the subject matter.

"They identify with it, and see things in their own lives. That encourages them to come and talk about it," Murphy explained.

She adds that intense gratification from the teaching standpoint comes from the "a-ha moments," or times of enlightenment and understanding in the student, especially for struggling students.

Fichtel concurs. "The best days for me are when I can sit back and watch students take over and take off with the material," he said. "The conversations are always continuing. Literature is never closed."

Their passion for teaching doesn't stop at the classroom. Fichtel and

Murphy maintain an active presence among the student body serving as advisors for student-run organizations. Fichtel advises the Gay/Straight Alliance, while Murphy is in her first year of overseeing the *Wordzine*, the campus' creative writing magazine. Both are also involved in the Writers' Guild.

They believe that by participating in extracurricular activities, they show students a commitment to the students' lives outside the classroom and a general concern for their well-being.

They also believe the clubs and Writers Guild provide creative outlets for students. The work outside the classroom also helps to create a bond between students and teachers that benefits both sides.

With teachers like Murphy and Fichtel "breaking" down the podium barrier, the educational experience at JJC continues to evolve.

Have a suggestion for a Professor Profile? What JJC teacher would you like to get to know better? email your ideas to blazermail@jjc.edu or call us at 280-2313.



Dr. Jason Fichtel (above) and Stacey Murphy, English department faculty members.

Photos by Rosalie Lewis



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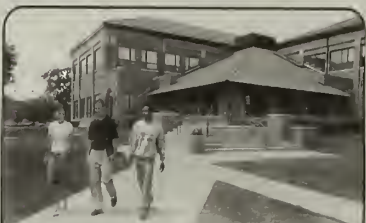
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EVENTS AROUND CAMPUS



Johnnie McKinney and Officer Davis demonstrate "The Drunk Goggles" during Alcohol Awareness Week.



Phi Theta Kappa members Jenni Wierwick, Sorleah Shroffari, Zulech and Stauson Corns sell apples to raise money for their club.

Photos by Adam Farcus and Brian Delaney



Scooby-Doo and his friends from the child care center get into the Halloween spirit as they line up for treats in the halls of JJC.



Nathan Martin and Jon Bowling perform at "Tastes, Words and Sounds."

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Discount card benefits students

By Kevin Milligan

The student government unveiled its newest idea during the two-week welcoming session at the onset of the fall semester: the student discount card.

"The card provides a unique discount for JJC students at various local businesses," said Anissa Jones, Director of Student Activities.

The idea was developed by the student government over the summer, with Jones providing guidance for development. She got the idea from a friend who was attending another community college that employed a similar service for students.

While the discount card has been well-received by the students so far, Jones warned that the process is still in a "trial phase," and still requires some fine tuning.

Jones recalled a particular incident where a student presented her discount card at an auto shop that had no idea that they were included on the list.

Each business pays a fee to be included on the discount card for the duration of the school year, with more businesses being added to the discount list on a consistent basis.

Students with any questions can consult the list by visiting the website at www.studentsavingsclub.com.

Jones remarked that the collaboration of the student government and the Students Saving Club was seamless.

"We provided them with a list of businesses that we were interested in, and they did all of the leg work in talking with the vendors of the particular business."

With the anticipated success, the student government will continue to add more businesses next year.

Students can pick up the discount cards at the student government office and the student center (D 1010).

The card is valid for the entire school year.

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JJC hosts college fair



Greg Wormley signs up for more information with Susan Thomas of University of Illinois.

Photo by Adam Farcus

By Amanda Stoffo

Hundreds of prospective college students swarmed into JJC's concourses from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Oct. 21 for the annual college fair sponsored by Will County high schools.

As visitors arrived, they received a program outlining the location of all the colleges and universities in attendance and information about where counselors would be available to answer questions and give information about colleges and career schools.

In the Fine Arts Theater from 6-7,

an informational financial aid seminar was offered, giving an overview of applying for financial aid, tips and dates to remember.

Representatives from almost all major state and private universities and colleges in Illinois were available to answer students' questions and concerns.

Other state and private schools from the midwest area were in attendance as well, and others ranged from as far away as Hawaii Pacific University to Virginia Intermont University.

Some school representatives promoted their schools by offering scholarship information and offered to waive application fees for qualified students primarily based upon their current GPA and/or ACT scores.

Military academies such as West Point Military Academy and the United States Air Force Academy were present to recruit students as well. One of the representatives for the Air Force Academy said college fairs help get their name out and show there are military schools available.

GSA

(continued from page 1)



Former Miss Gay Joliet "Phoenix" performs at GSA's drag show.

Photo courtesy of Mancuevers

have been more comfortable for the mother to see her son perform in a school environment, rather than a bar. She added that going into a gay bar may not always be comfortable for someone who's straight.

"At least at the drag show, you'll know other straight people will be there," she said.

Fichtel said the group was highly encouraged by the turnout and plans to make it an annual event. The entertainers also expressed an interest in performing again next year.

Fichtel said the event gave students a sense of community and made them feel like they had a safe place to go on the weekend without drinking

to have fun.

Lopez-Gilmore said the GSA was approached with the idea last year by one of the local drag queens, but presented it this year because the group was larger and "more proactive."

She said Phoenix, one of the Mancuevers divas, "set everything up."

Lopez-Gilmore added Mancuevers donated its sound system, talent, DJ, time, divas and MC for the event.

GSA member Chris Ratuszny took care of the rest, renting the lights and publicizing the event.

Ratuszny said it was great to see the response and expose the underground culture in Joliet.

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Howie Day live at The Vic Theatre

By Andrew Hrabec

The city of Chicago was flooded with excited people on Saturday, October 11. After all, the Chicago Cubs were in the MLB playoffs and were doing damn good. Not to mention the Vic Theatre, which is located in Wrigleyville, was full of college students anxiously waiting for Howie Day to hit the stage.

It was hard for many of us in attendance to watch opening performers Charlotte Martin—even though she is very talented and extremely hot—and Jump Little Children because the bar on the second level had coverage of the Cubs game. But once Day hit the stage, the Cubs were merely an afterthought.

With the strumming of his guitar, the show was underway with one of his many new songs, "Brace Yourself." The set list also included, "Secret," "Numbness for Sound," "Sunday Morning Song," "You and a Promise," "Collide," "Sorry, So Sorry," "Ghost" with the outro "Beams of Light," "Perfect Time of Day," "Trouble in Here," "I'll Take You On" and "She Says."

Prior to this tour, Day usually performed alone on stage. With the release of his new album *Stop All the World Now*, Day began to tour with a band beside him. For those who have seen Day perform live, they know that he has a unique way of making up for the lack of a band. In layman's terms, he uses foot pedals to record himself playing various chords, hitting the side of his guitar, singing and so on to make it sound as though there is a band playing behind him. But not to fear—Day performed crowd favorites "Sorry, So Sorry" and "Ghost" with the outro "Beams of Light" solo.

During the encore, Day played "Morning After" and "End of Days." And if the show weren't interesting enough, during "Morning After," one of Day's guitar strings broke, and he



Howie Day delivers a hair-raising performance at the Vic. Photo by

somehow managed to retune the strings of his guitar while he performed.

The show was outstanding. It won't be long until Day becomes a household name.

His unique style allows for music fans to enjoy a sound that is different from the average songs on the radio today. As Day continues to get exposure on such shows as *The Late Show*

with Craig Kilborn and *Last Call* with Carson Daly, Day will soon become a huge star in the music world.

And just in case you're interested in seeing Howie Day live, he will be headed back to our area when he performs at Alumni Hall in Bloomington, Ind. on 11/16, Southern Illinois University on 11/17, and the University of Iowa on 11/20.

BOOK REVIEW:

THEM: Adventures With Extremists

By John Sebastian Ferrari

In the post 9/11 world, the subject of extremism has become a marquee issue for the media and a source of fear for ordinary men and women around the world. Fueled by the media and opposed by any number of institutions, many would consider extremism the greatest threat of our era.

This being said, I was a bit worried when I heard that a British humorist had written a novel chronicling his exploits with various extremist groups. Certainly this was one subject that would not be benefited by a touch of humor, I thought.

I am afraid I was wrong. In his journey, Ronson spends time with an Islamic extremist in Britain, PK-obsessed Klansmen, the participants in Ruby Ridge, neo-Nazis, as well as a former soccer broadcaster from the U.K. that thinks the world is run by 12-foot-tall lizard men. While each of the groups is unique in demographic makeup and ideological vision, they all seem to have one similar concern: That a small group of men rule the world from a secret hotel room.

From chapter one onward, the novel becomes increasingly surreal. At one point the author is revealed to be a Jew at a Jihad training camp and is told to embrace his heritage.

One of the Ruby Ridge children takes him out to shoot at tin cans.

Later Ronson himself discovers a

mysterious man in a green Lancia is monitoring him. While disturbing, the author is able to diffuse most incidents with humor.

This novel will most likely not change your life or worldview. That being said, Ronson's great achievement is his ability to strip away the demonized image we currently hold towards extremists and grant them a more human face.

Fear, it would seem, is what every extremist hopes to instill in those who would disagree. By revealing their humanity and by humorously describing their true nature, Ronson denies them the weapon of fear.

Likewise *Them* does a wonderful job of showing how, by their very nature, extremists can force the groups who oppose them to take a polar opposite view, becoming extremists as well, creating as the title suggests an "Us" against "Them" approach to the problem.

In the end, *Them* excellently displays the first and most valuable trait of humor, which is its ability to cut through the rhetoric and examine an issue with honesty.

Them is a short novel that moves very quickly. As a piece of humor, it does not suffer from the lack of poetic elements and flowery language.

A great conversation starter, *Them* is a worthwhile way to kill time in between classes.

Older, wiser John Mayer presents *Heavier Things*



By Lisa Frieri

After receiving critical and commercial acclaim for his album, *Room for Squares*, John Mayer releases his sophomore effort, *Heavier Things*. Mayer experiments with a variety of different sounds, using saxophones, trumpets and various percussion.

The first song off the album is "Clarity," which was recently performed on the SNL season premiere. It's an upbeat song that begins with clapping and horns and has the most thought provoking lyric on the album "The rock candy melted/only diamonds now remain."

The second song is the current single, "Bigger Than My Body," which has a catchy hook and is easy to sing along to.

The next song off the album is "Something's Missing," which divulges the private side of Mayer. "I can't be sure that this state of mind is not of my own design/I wish there was an over-the-counter test for loneliness like this." Although he is famous, he gets lonely like everyone else.

"New Deep" is a catchy song and has potential for being the next single. With the lyric, "Cause ever since I tried/Trying not to find/Every little meaning in my life/I've been cool/With my new golden rule," Mayer explains he's not

the same man as he was a few years ago. This is the most introspective song, taking after the singer-songwriters of the 1970s, such as James Taylor.

"Come Back to Bed" is a slow love song with bluesy undertones, featuring sax and trumpet in the background.

Another love song is "Split Screen Sadness." Mayer pours his heart out about the trials and tribulations of love lost. "So I'll check the weather wherever you are/Cause I wanna know if you can see the stars tonight/I might be my only right." Anyone who has ever been through a difficult breakup can relate to this song.

"Daughters" is the advice song of the album, where Mayer looks outside of his own life for inspiration. Girls are not as strong with matters of the heart and need their fathers to look out for them, or so Mayer believes.

The most upbeat song of the CD is "Only Heart." Although he is away from the girl he loves, she is the only one for him.

The album ends with the song "Wheel." Mayer believes the wheel of love will go on in his life. Just as one door closes, another opens. It is the perfect theme to end this love infused album.

In the CD booklet, Mayer breaks the songs down, describing everything from locations where songs were written to the keys in which they are played.

The enhanced CD features uncensored songs, a must for anyone who is a hardcore Mayer fan.

"Heavier Things" isn't as good as "Room for Squares" but is still a pretty good sophomore effort. The album shows how Mayer has matured as a lyricist and musician.



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Scary Movie 3 falls just short of spoof classic

By Matt Sheehan

Taking a popular film and making a mockery of it is no easy task. From *Young Frankenstein* to *Hat Hats!*, a filmmaker must take careful precaution to satisfy both followers of the spoof sub-genre and the general movie-going public. Luckily, the *Scary Movie* franchise has been taken from the hands of the damned and given to the powers of spoof mastery.

I had no previous desire to see the first two *Scary Movie* films, but the third installment takes place shortly after the end of part two. The only reason I saw *Scary Movie 3* is because of who made it—part of the screenplay is written by Kevin "Silent Bob" Smith and is directed by master of the mockery David Zucker (*Airplane!*, *The Naked Gun*).

Cindy Campbell (a blonde-haired Anna Farris)—the only participant from the previous films to reprise her role—is a reporter who begins to investigate mysterious crop circles on Tom Logan's (Charlie Sheen) farm. Another mystery involves the bizarre death of a close friend, who watched a strange videotape. Mmm, sound familiar?

Now, *Airplane!* is one of the funniest movies ever made. Zucker attempts with *Scary Movie 3* to aim toward his film of comedic pinnacle genius, but ends up grabbing a bit of the less popular *Airplane! 2*. That notwithstanding, *Scary Movie 3* strays away from the obscene humor of the first two movies and instead focuses on the dry, subtle humor and pratfalls of slapstick. Sure, there is a bit of toilet humor and many groin shots, but the rating of PG-13—compared to the R rating on the

first two—make this more family oriented, even if that family is the *Osbournes* or the *Bundys* from *Married...With Children*.

Like *Airplane!*, *Scary Movie 3* focuses on the many celebrity appearances and cameos that are speckled and sprinkled within, most notably George Carlin, Jeremy Piven, and man-of-a-thousand-spoofs Leslie Nielsen, especially when Carlin plays a lonely and semi-excited "architect" (hint, hint!). The comic gold of Nielsen sharing his scenes with rapper Ja Rule. Additionally, Nielsen "reprises" a line from *Airplane!*: That is one of the funniest moments from *Scary Movie 3*. Of course, about a third of the funny scenes were already in the trailer. Therefore, the effect that it had was lessened. I still laughed, though, so don't let that diminish your hopes for laughter. I laughed wholeheartedly, in fact, and very often. Yes, it's true, I laughed and cried, but the latter was only because of the nature of the former.

When *Scary Movie 3* opened a week or two ago, its gross at the box office from Friday through Sunday was the highest October opening ever. And *Scary Movie 4* is on the way, with Zucker still in place of the Wayans, who ironically still get credited in the credits (duh!) even though they dropped out of one of their creations. Too bad. I had fun without them. Okay, I'm glad they weren't involved, so bring on part four, Zucker! And remember, I want to wish you good luck; we're all counting on you.

Visit Matt's Movies & TV online at www.matt-movies.com.



Scary Movie 3 is packed full of irrelevant cameo appearances (such as these two...).

Photo from Dimension Films

The Blazer regrets to break the following tragic news to students: Classes will not be held on November 11 (Veteran's Day) or November 27-30 (Thanksgiving).



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Taurus

Checking your oil should be a weekly ritual, not an annual one.

Gemini

It is up to you to boycott technology and bring back carrier pigeons and the pony express.

Cancer

Next Monday, see what happens when you run through the school halls yelling "The matrix has you!"

Leo

If you don't start returning movies on time, you'll have to find a second job to pay for all those late fees.

Virgo

Asparagus makes an excellent last-minute anniversary gift.

Libra

If you ever wanted to run for governor, you should've moved to California sooner.

Scorpio

Put on the wading boots—you'll need them when you go alligator hunting later this week.

Sagittarius

An unexpected encounter with an old classmate will leave you flabbergasted and sulen for the rest of the year.

Capricorn

The opportunity to hunt mongoose gets smaller by the day.

Aquarius

Your true love awaits you in a cave in Afghanistan.

Places

You will soon discover the many uses of salami in every day life.

JJC archaeologists harvest past

By Brian Delaney

Symerton, IL - Early this semester, Joliet Junior College's fraud archaeologist Patrick Morita and his student assistants trudged through a waste-filled container near Symerton, Illinois looking for hints of history.

They found some very intriguing items, all located in a concentrated area of the metal trash bin. To the untrained eye, the discoveries would seem worthless, almost comparable to garbage, but Morita knew he had the jackpot.

Within weeks, Morita and fellow gynecologists from JJC's Adjunct Archaeology Group turned a small section of the dumpster behind a bar, in downtown Symerton, into a dig site. They also transformed the dumpster into an outdoor laboratory for visiting students, Cub Scouts and octogenarians from Joliet suburbs.

Surprising to some, the commonplace dumpster once accommodated the waste of one of Will County's early settlers and belonged to the most prominent citizens of the 1800s. The wealthy trash barons, Sir Wilton Centre, and William Nitting II, were often times spotted by their prized dumpsters making sure things were in order.

"There's history right in our own waste containers," Morita said. "People got to know their past before time runs out."

When the digging began in September, archaeologists uncovered a glass liquor bottle and two wooden pallets hidden beneath the dumpster. They also unearthed fragments of 20th century farm life: plastic cutlery, paper towels, hypodermic needles, beer cans, old boots, beer bottles, tractor parts, remnants of a horse, a 1987 penny, and pieces of poop. Each artifact is a piece



A student archaeologist surveys the current dig site.

Photo by Brian Delaney

to a larger puzzle, which in turn is a part of a 3-D puzzle.

"The paper towels were probably part of a roof," Morita said, stepping down into a portion of the dug-out

dumpster behind Quigley's Pub. "Only the wealthy could afford paper towels."

JJC's Adjunct Archaeology Group has been serving the Joliet region for more than a month now. State and federal

laws mandate that garbage barrels of twenty pounds or more designated for disposal must be surveyed for potential historical significance. Waste Management Firms, when not on strike,

and governmental agencies now turn to JJC, which could possibly conduct as many as two surveys every year.

The Adjunct Archaeology Group employs a volunteer staff of introverts who identify, explicate and extricate items of interest. It also offers a chance for the elderly to get outdoors. A majority of time is spent at bars, like Quigley's in Symerton or Fritz's in Manhattan, drinking heavily and looking for clues to the past.

In the past month, JJC fraud archaeologists have discovered everything from ancient 1930's burial grounds to settlements dating back to the time of the Cold War. Significant sites must either be fully excavated or preserved. Pat Morita said the current dumpster site should be preserved as a park or something.

Morita said his colleagues had never been exposed to a dig this massive. "They really don't know anything when it comes to archeology. Well, I'm no Paul Sereno, either," he said, making reference to NIU's alumnus fossil digger.

Morita and his fraudulent crew taught local Cub Scouts and students that it's important to dig into people's private files as well. They studied tax records, census data, newspaper articles and bank records to learn more about various topics.

More than 100 artifacts retrieved from the Symerton dig were taken to the JJC Archaeological dumpster, where they will be properly disposed of after being looked at for some time. The Adjunct Archaeology Group keeps a small folder in the Blazer Office that contains a brief mentioning of artifacts and pictures of female archaeological students. Morita stated, in the end, he hopes he can find a better job before it's too late.

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Photos from the field



Defensive coordinator Joe Roman talks [left] his players in between plays.

Sophomore tackle Robert Blocker (79) gets set for the play [below].

"This is Thriller, Thriller Night..." The JJC cheerleading squad gets the crowd into the spirit of the season with a choreographed cheer to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" [bottom left].

The Wolves offense struggles hard to stay ahead of Grand Rapids Community College on October 25. Despite ferocious effort, the Wolves lost 13-6.



All or nothing

By Adam Fox

When is it too late to call the 2003 football team unsuccessful? After all, they were the National Junior College Champions and many of the important position players from last year's team returned.

During the season, the Wolves went on a tear, a six-game winning streak in which they limited their six opponents to just 50 points, while the Wolves potent offenses tacked up 258. In that stretch the Wolves looked like they hadn't missed a step from their dream season of a year ago.

However, when Air Force Junior Varsity came to town, an easy win turned into calamity. Last year the Wolves beat Air Force like a drum. The final score of the slaughter was 24-7. This year when the two teams rematched, Air Force used that to motivate them and it worked. Air Force beat the Wolves by a score of 35-18.

After that loss to Air Force, the season seemed to take a little plunge. Instead of making a push for the playoffs the Wolves dropped another crucial game, this time to Grand Rapids Community College. The Wolves lost to the Raiders 13-6.

This game paired one phenomenal defense against another, and the Raiders came out the victor.

The lone bright spots for the Wolves were safety Gamar Diamond and wide-receiver Daron Spencer. Diamond intercepted two Raider balls and ran them back for 39 yards. Spencer brought down six passes for 61 yards; he was the leading receiver for the Wolves.

In their final game versus William Rainey Harper, the Wolves bounced back and saved their season. The Wolves held the Hawks to 13 points, in a 34-13 victory.

The Wolves were led by freshman quarterback Kevin Warner, who ran the offense like a seasoned pro.

The offense was not the only thing worth noting. Sophomore defen-



Ken Warner drops back to pass.

Photo by Andrew Hrubec

sive-end Rob Ninkovich became the all-time single season sack leader, with 16. Ninkovich surpassed 2002 graduate Josh Chestman.

In a season with very high expectations, 2003 gave us many highlights and disappointments.

A season we will never forget.

Changes ahead for Lady Wolves tennis next season

By Andrew Hrubec

The JJC women's tennis team finished what coach Tim Vandervall believed was a much-improved season. After the Lady Wolves posted a dismal record, but behind the play of Katherine Williams and Rebecca Newcomb, the team finished with a respectable record of 5-6.

"It was one of those years when we beat all the division II teams in northern Illinois. We were 5-0," Vandervall said. "But unfortunately the two teams we needed to beat

which were Rock Valley and DuPage, division III teams, were both good this year." With two of the team's losses coming to four-year schools and two losses to good teams down in southern Illinois, Vandervall is proud of what his team accomplished.

"I feel that we improved a lot," Vandervall stated. "Overall we had a pretty good year."

Williams, a freshman out of Bloomington, finished the season with a record of 7-4. And Newcomb, who played for the Lady Wolves two years

ago, finished with a record of 5-3.

Next year's team will have a different feel when the season starts. With many of the players leaving this year's, it will be difficult to continue improving as they have. The Lady Wolves will be losing sophomores Amanda Dingess, Bridgette Johnson, Kierra Richardson and Rebecca Newcomb; so freshman Katherine Williams and Khara Lukoniec will be the vocal part of next year's team.

"We're rebuilding again," Vandervall said. "We've lost a lot of sophomores."

Women's soccer looks for improvement

By Andrew Hrubec

The JJC women's soccer team ended their season on Tuesday, October 21 with a 3-0 loss to Harper College in the Division III Regional Tournament. Led by sophomore captains Ashley Mefford and Jamie Underwood, the team finished the season with a record of 5-9.

Mefford led the team with 15 goals this season, giving her a total of 24 in her stint at JJC. Underwood was second on the team in scoring with

nine goals and led the team with 11 assists.

After finishing last season with a record of 2-10, it appears as though the Lady Wolves are on the verge of turning the soccer program around.

Next season the team will depend on the experience of returning players Alison Floto, Kim Grzanka, Andrea Hutson and Gina Ranieri, just to name a few. In order for the team to continue to improve, they must get the athletes necessary to do so. Because

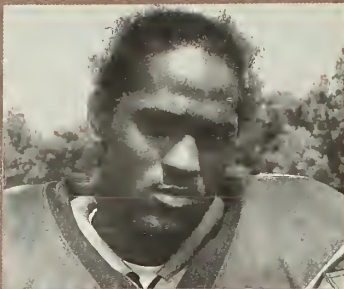
students are busy with school and work, many athletes turn down the opportunity to play soccer with the team.

This year's team consisted of only 6 girls that played varsity soccer in high school.

There are quite a few good players here if we could just get them out for the team," said coach Dan Furman.

For the Lady Wolves this season, Mefford, Underwood and Floto made All Conference and All Regional Division III.

Athlete of The Issue



Gamar Diamond

Every player has a break-out game, and for Gamar Diamond, his game was against Grand Rapids Community College. In this game Diamond intercepted two Raider passes for 39 yards. This brings his total to four this season, with only one game left to play. Diamond, the team interception leader, has four interceptions for 81 yards (20.3 average).

With just one more interception, this freshman from Rich East High School will be tied for third place on the all time Single-Season Record holders.



Doing the Fox Trot

Hockey: We'll miss you

Sports purists will argue until the sun falls out of the sky about which sport is America's true national pastime. Baseball has been the nation's pastime since the days of Mickey Mantle, Babe Ruth and Joe Jackson. But in the last 30 years, football has taken the country—and the world—by storm. Basketball is at its peak of popularity now, with the rise of players like LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony and Yao Ming and the fall of players like Michael Jordan.

But what about hockey? Can the average fan even name the leading goal scorers from last year? Probably not. Does anyone care about this once proud sport? Obviously not, since the National Hockey Leagues fan base is dwindling down.

Whatever happened to this once great sport, where having no front teeth was a symbol of greatness?

Last year countless teams lost money, not in the hundreds or thousands but in the millions. Chicago Blackhawks owner Bill Wirtz lost a reported \$15 million.

But it gets worse for the Ottawa Senators and the Buffalo Sabers. The Senators, one of the best teams in the league, had to raise money last year to pay their players' salaries and the general cost of running the team. Is this how a thriving sport should be?

In a way, to correct the wild spending that is taking place on the ice rink, Commissioner Gary Bettman is attempt-

ing to install a salary cap. A salary cap would be an attempt to manage rising salaries despite dwindling attendance. For instance, Bettman could install a cap of around \$40 million and a penalty of 50 cents for every dollar over the cap. For the NY Rangers' payroll is around \$80 million, so with penalties they would pay \$100 million.

As the NHL stands right now, no one cares about overpaid eastern European players, who speak little to no English. The only way Wirtz and the rest of the owners could draw more interest in the sport would be to start making some radical changes to it. For instance, every time an American hockey player scores a goal, they get three points instead of one.

Better yet, instead of Detroit Redwings fans throwing objects, they chuck car parts. Simple changes like these would make fans want to go to games. And besides, wouldn't you want to see a muffer chucked at Chris Chelios?

After this season, owners and players are expecting a long holdout because the current agreement ended on Sept. 15.

This standoff between the owners and the players probably will not be a quick one, so we can expect hockey to be absent from Chicago and every other city for a long time.

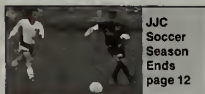
Until we meet again, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

Fair thee well NHL, we hardly knew thee.



November 19, 2003

A Joliet Junior College Student Publication



Volume 76 Issue 4

Fine arts winter concert honors retiring chair Lewis

By Rosalie Lewis

On Sunday, Dec. 7, at 3:00 p.m., the Joliet Junior College Community Band will celebrate its twenty-sixth season with a winter concert in the Fine Arts Theatre.

The band is under the direction of Jerry E. Lewis, Chairman of the Fine Arts Department at JJC. This will be the next to last concert under the direction of Lewis, who will retire in May 2004. Lewis has been band director at JJC for 33 years, and has conducted JJC's Community Band for the last 26 years.

"I have never presented an entire winter concert of seasonal music; however, the second half of this concert consists entirely of seasonal favorites," said Lewis. "I believe the audience will find the music enjoyable and appropriate to the celebration of the many holidays at this time of the year."

Lewis explained that in the past he has not included much seasonal music. But since this is his last year, the band convinced him to include more holiday selections to the concert.

This concert will include selections which represent some of Lewis' favorite repertoire for the symphonic band. It should also offer something for nearly everyone—marches, original compositions for band, transcriptions and seasonal selections.

The concert opens with *The Klaxon*, a march by Henry Fillmore, one of America's greatest march composers.

The next selection is the overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* by Mozart, a transcription by Earl Slocum. "Procession of Nobles" from *Mlada* by Rimsky-Korsakov will be performed next.

Lucian Cailliet transcribed the next selection to be played, Wagner's "Elsa's Procession to the Cathedral" from *Lohengrin*, a beautiful work which builds to a dramatic climax. The first half of the concert will conclude with excerpts from Giuseppe Verdi's



Retiring fine arts chair Jerry E. Lewis conducts the JJC Community Band. Lewis has conducted the band for the past 26 years. The community band includes musicians from throughout the area. Many are former JJC music students. Photo courtesy of the JJC Fine Arts Department

Manzoni Requiem, composed in honor of Alessandra Manzoni, a dear friend of Verdi. This work includes solo passages for two trumpets and euphonium as well as some of the greatest climaxes in all music.

The second half of the program begins with Leroy Anderson's *A Christmas Festival*, a collection of carols and secular pieces. *Russian Christmas Music* by Alfred Reed, is based upon the liturgical music of the

Eastern Orthodox Church. This favorite in the symphonic band repertoire creates an overwhelming sound picture of tone color, power and sonority. The band will next perform "Prayer and Dream Pantomime" from *Hansel and Gretel*, an opera by Engelbert Humperdinck. This selection is the memorable picture of the two children, who, lost in the woods, kneel down, say their prayers and fall asleep. Suddenly breaks a light—a staircase is

seen which angels descend to protect the children.

Newell H. Long, a long-time associate at Indiana University, composed a delightful setting of *Twas the Night Before Christmas* for narrator and band. The narrator will be J.D. Ross, President of JJC. The concert concludes with Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, a favorite of everyone at this time of year.

Last year, for the band's 25th win-

ter concert, Ross and the music faculty presented Lewis with a commissioned piece in his honor. The band will perform this piece on May 4, during the last band concert before Lewis' retirement.

Admission to the winter concert is \$5 for adults; \$4 for JJC faculty and staff, non-JJC students and senior citizens; and \$2 for JJC students.

All proceeds go to music scholarships.

Brown Bag lunch series: Malmberg talks Broadway

By Traci Rader

The Nov 6, Brown Bag Series featured Sue Malmberg, JJC professor of music, discussing the "History of Broadway."

Malmberg covered famous influences in Broadway such as Irving Berlin, who wrote "God Bless America."

Berlin also wrote famous songs such as "White Christmas, Easter Parade, Always and Putting on the Ritz."

According to Malmberg, the songwriter led a remarkable rags-to-riches life. He was a Russian-Jewish immigrant who grew up in a New York City tenement, he made a fortune in the music business before clopping with a glamorous Roman Catholic socialite in 1926.

He died an immensely wealthy man in 1989—at the epic age of 101. A contemporary of Berlin's,

George Gershwin was an American composer who had a talent for pop music and concert music.

He innovated in both writing songs and Broadway musicals which not only defined the 20s and 30s (especially "Oh, Kay!, Girl Crazy, and Lady Be Good) but blazed paths which would be fully exploited only later with the Rodgers and Hammerstein "book" musicals of the 40s.

The list goes on. For those of you who missed Malmberg's presentation, you can reach her at her extension 2287 or her office in room K-2014. Malmberg has directed more than 20 musicals at JJC and will be directing "Guys & Dolls" on March 4, 5, 6 and 7 in the Fine Arts Theatre.

The next Brown Bag lunch topic, "Where Have our Manners Gone?" will be presented by Bobette

Wolesensky on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at noon in room J-0006.

The final Brown Bag presentation for this semester will be "The Ecology of Grasslands Birds," presented by Andy Neill on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at noon in room J-0006.

The Brown Bag series is sponsored by the Joliet Junior College Professional and Personal Development Committee.

Brown Bag is a program brought to JJC twice a month by Fred Harris, Instructional Media Services Supervisor.

You can stop by a once or twice a month to listen to the presentation given to a noontime audience.

The subject differs and is selected by a poll given to staff. Take a look and bring a lunch next Brown Bag at J-0006.



Sue Malmberg, professor of music at JJC

Photo courtesy of Community Relations

BLAZER VIEW

Is cellular technology eclipsing good, old-fashioned conversation?

Walk down the hallways of JJC today and see the phenomenon. Drive on I-80 during rush hour and marvel at it. Go to the mall or a football game or even a rock climbing trip—there's no escaping it. Cell phone technology is everywhere.

Back in the day, cell phones were marketed as an item to use in emergencies. Whatever the situation—whether your car broke down, your wallet got stolen or you forgot what your mom wanted at the store—if you were one of the privileged elite folks who carried a cell phone in those days, you could call home at a very reasonable rate of \$5 per minute or thereabouts and get someone to come to your rescue.

Of course, there were fewer towers back then, so even if you had a cell phone you were lucky to get a signal. If you got stuck out in the wilderness, you might have to hitchhike back to civilization before your phone would work.

We've come a long way since that long-forgotten era. These days, it's not unusual to see a group of students standing around talking in front of the TV on the bridge—but they're not talking to each other, oh no. They're talking on their cell phones, using up their precious minutes to talk about who knows what.

But what is wrong with this picture? Some people claim that the cell phone revolution brings people together, bridging the distance of miles between friends and loved ones. This may be true, but in the process it seems that our society is becoming more and more fragmented. Think about it: If we go through life only talking to people we know, our circles of acquaintance will shrink. In a few generations, we'll be a culture of people who only talk to themselves.

So should we abandon cell phones altogether? Of course not. But maybe we shouldn't abandon normal human contact either. Maybe sometimes we *should* talk to strangers.

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Question of the Issue

What are you thankful for?



"My health."

Celia Mynoc, 18
Freshman, Psychology



for the air that I'm able to

Torolam Williams, 18
Freshman, Associate of Science



"Being at school and my family for their support."

Kierra L. J. Wright, 18
Freshman, Psychology



"For getting into Western and working hard to get there."

Fred Housman, 21
Sophomore, History

LETTER POLICY

The Blazer encourages participation from readers through letters.

Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the Blazer office at F-1009.

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GUEST OPINION

Everybody must get stoned



Rush Limbaugh joins the masses of drug users in America.

By Matt Furlane

Drugs have been around since the mid-1800s. They were almost eliminated from society during the WWII era and stayed quiet until the '60s when marijuana, LSD, and other weird stuff erupted into the mainstream of society. In the '70s, a lava flow of "harder" drugs like cocaine, PCP, and heroin made life miserable and sent crime rates through the roof. Another drug eruption marked the '80s with "Crack is whack." And in the '90s, meth, club drugs and a stubborn return of marijuana revealed that the next generation was going to pick up where mom and dad left off. Now, the misuse of commonly prescribed drugs like painkillers is entering the spotlight.

Last month, after being canned at ESPN, ultra-conservative Rush "told you so" Limbaugh (AM 890), admitted on air that he was addicted to pain killers and would be taking a voluntary leave of absence in order to rehab. A few weeks later, the beloved Courtney Love was arrested for illegal possession of painkillers. For Love to get caught with drugs is hardly a surprise. She's a rock musician and must find a way to escape her own music. But the recent stumbling of popular conservatives like Limbaugh is a serious, head-turning glitch in the matrix. Conservatives are supposed to be champions of morals and family values. What's going on?

"We have become a nation floating in a sea of Jack Daniels, punctuated by bobbing capsules of Prozac, addition to an ecstatic sea," states author Al Martin. America has a craving for drugs that keeps poppy fields in Afghanistan popping and the coca fields in Columbia cracking. Drugs are used everywhere from the country to the suburb to the ghetto. Politicians, priests, pets, movie stars, rock stars, jock stars, and students all do drugs. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, the rate of drug use on college campuses has been steadily increasing over the past ten years—stand down wind of a certain nearby apartment complex and you'll get a whiff of 'higher' education. Supply and demand economics keep drugs a perennial part of our culture.

I'm not trying to excuse Limbaugh. As a good republican, he must take full responsibility for his actions and not blame society; and admit that he enjoyed himself. But it must be noted that everyone seems to be taking some kind of drug for some

kind of problem. Popping pills is the favorite secret pastime.

Of course publicly we agree with President Bush when he states, "One of the interesting questions facing baby boomers is, have we grown up? Are we willing to share the wisdom of past mistakes? And I think the message ought to be to all children, don't use drugs. Don't abuse alcohol. That's what leadership is all about." But privately we sing with Marilyn Manson. "There's a hole in our soul that we fill with dope and we're feeling fine. I don't like the drugs but the drugs like me." Why are we so bipolar about drug use?

I believe our cultural duplicity is the result of the terrorism of the '60s. "The 'countr' revolution" wanted everything torn apart and it brought the liberal arts university down into a heap of smoking rubble. The university, as much as the Christian church, is supposed to give us hope for civilization, a sense of transcendence, and contrast to the world. But now, stripped of authority, our universities can only train us to be well paid, amoral professionals. Why was everyone so surprised about Clinton's behavior and the Enron scandal? Would you have behaved differently?

Over a decade ago, author and professor Allan Bloom stated his fear that the American mind was losing. It be alive today but would no longer have to worry. It's sealed shut. The American consumer culture pre-determines everything for us, including our thoughts, loves, and friends. And like any good fascist regime, today's society seeks to eliminate the imperfect people (the disabled, overweight, elderly). It's the new matrix. Environmentalists, democrats, hipies, and punks have emptied entire clips at it and hit nothing but air. Our 40-year experiment with sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll succeeded only in upsetting grandpa and did not solve one social problem. War is still with us. Women are being used like cattle. Racism is still an unsolved mystery. Poverty, disease and hunger plague the world. And the big questions still go unanswered.

I think the time has come for a new generation to step forward and begin the rebuilding process. We need boldness of thought and major ideas in our universities now. Binge drinking, careerism, bedonism and drug abuse are all a betrayal of the privilege of being able to go to college. The world is what we make of it.

NEWS BRIEFS

McGuire first woman to be honored by hospital

Lora McGuire, professor of Nursing, was presented with the Silver Cross Schering Medal of Excellence by Silver Cross Hospital. The award, which is the highest recognition for a health professional, recognizes her outstanding leadership and service in healthcare. "I think what makes it so special is the fact that I am the first nurse and woman to ever receive the award," said McGuire.

McGuire has worked at JJC for 21 years. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Northern Illinois University, and her Master of Science degree in Nursing from Rush College of Nursing.

Epicurean Festival

The Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management departments sponsor the *Third Annual Epicurean Festival of Food and Wine* on Friday, Nov. 21 from 7 - 10 p.m., at the Renaissance Center. Tickets are \$50 per person. Proceeds go to the Culinary Arts Education Fund. For more information, contact Dori Miller at (815) 280-2255.

Culture Night

Lathos Unidos, ENLACE and Tech Prep are sponsoring *Culture Night* on Friday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. in the Theatre. Performing are Vanessa Martinez, who will sing a Latin American music medley, and guitarist Nelson Sosa, who will perform and instrumental musical tour through 12 countries. Refreshments will be provided after the concert. For more information, contact Betty Lorch at ext. 2407.

Rock Against Rape

JJC hosts its Fifth Rock Against Rape benefit concert on Saturday, Nov. 22, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Sponsored by the student organization, Action for Freedom, proceeds benefit the Sexual Assault Services Center and the Crisis Line of Joliet. The concert features local bands and Slam Poetry by Reality. Admission is a canned food, hygiene supplies, new clothing, or a \$3 to \$5 donation. Tickets will be sold at the door on the day of the event. For more information contact Howard at 815-280-2745 or at mhoward@jjc.edu, or log on to www.jolietra.ik.

Musica Viva Presents Free Concert

Musica Viva presents pianist Alasdair Beaton on Sunday, Nov. 23, at 3 p.m. in the Theatre. A pre-concert discussion will take place at 2:30 p.m. Admission is free. He will perform music of Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy and Ravel.

Fine Arts Professor performs in Nashville

Professor of Fine Arts Sue Malmberg recently attended the World Piano Pedagogy conference in Nashville, TN where she performed passages from George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. *Great Debate 2003: Health or Pain* was designed to help musicians work through technical passages and learn new performance methods without pain.

JJC fine arts department looking for a few good 'Guys and Dolls'

By Rose Lewis

On December 16 and 17, the JJC fine arts department will be holding auditions for their upcoming production of *Guys and Dolls*. The play will be presented on March 4-7 at part of the spring performing arts series.

"People who wish to audition should prepare a song from the golden age of the musical and an accompanist will be provided," said Nicki Blowers, technical supervisor of the fine arts department.

The auditions are not limited to staff and students of the college—any-

one residing in District 525 is welcome to participate.

According to Blowers, the cast calls for fifteen men, four women and a chorus. Director Dr. Zachary Bloomfield and music director Sue Malmberg will be making all casting decisions. For anyone who might be interested in trying out but worried about fitting practice time into their already crowded schedule, there's good news.

"We try to schedule around the student's schedule," said Blowers. "On the average, they rehearse 5 to 6 times a week, with any dance and singing

rehearsals as well scheduled in." She added that the last two weeks of rehearsal, cast members are required to attend all the rehearsals, including technical and cue-to-cue.

This is not the last opportunity to get involved in theater for this year. In February, Blowers will be casting *Talking With*, a series of women's monologues by Jane Martin.

After the auditions take place, people can find out if they have been cast by checking the theater bulletin board located outside of K-1004 or by calling the theatre at ext. 2200.

JJC International Students Club set to host Thanksgiving dinner

By Adam Fox

On Saturday, Nov. 22 at noon, the International Students Club will host a Thanksgiving dinner at Grace Bible Church at 114 Quannah St. in Shawneetown.

This Thanksgiving dinner is targeted towards JJC's international students, but everyone is welcome. The

goal is to let JJC international get a feeling of a true American Thanksgiving dinner.

The International Students Club asks that the international students bring a dish from their native country.

This International Thanksgiving Dinner is free, and is open to anyone who wants to come.

Coffeehouse celebrates native culture

By Rosalie Lewis

On Wednesday, Nov. 12, from 7-9 p.m., students and faculty of JJC got a taste of another culture when the Native American Club presented their coffeehouse in honor of Native American Heritage month.

The event was held on the bridge, and included music and stories from four Native American performers. Free food and drinks made the event even more appealing.

Larry Lockwood, Armand Esai and Robert Smith started the evening off with ceremonial drumming. The three performers sat around a large drum and performed a rhythmic song that set the tone for a meaningful, fun and interesting evening.

The second song they performed for the audience of around forty people was called "The Flag Song" in honor of Veteran's Day. The performers asked audience members to stand as a salute to their friends or relatives who have fought to defend the ones they love.

Esai and Smith, who are both Ojibwa, performed together on smaller drums, singing songs in their native language for "Rounding Time."

"The beat you're hearing in this song is really the universal heartbeat," explained Smith. "It's the first thing you ever experience." He explained that the high tone songs were northern style, which in his words is "Indian country western" music.

"The songs are about heartbeat, many of them celebrating the lives of those who didn't make it back from where they went to defend their families," Smith said. The deep feeling and meaning in the songs resounded with the audience, connecting the performers with the listeners



Armand Esai (l), Larry Lockwood and Robert "R. J." Smith perform at the Native American Coffeehouse.

Photo by Fred Housman

no matter what their cultural backgrounds were.

Some of the songs mixed fragments of English with the traditional native language. "Don't you cry for me; I'll be back someday," sang Smith and Esai. This and other songs reflected hardships that have been faced courageously.

Next on the stage was Lockwood, a member of the Northern Cheyenne nation. In addition to playing his drum and singing, he also told several stories.

One story he told described a tribe who learned from the Great Teacher of Tradition, the four seasons, about how to store up food and supplies for the winter. One year, some travelers came over the hill looking for food right before winter, so the tribe kindly gave them from their own stores.

The next year, the travelers came back, demanding food in a much less friendly manner. Once again, the tribe

gave them what they asked for, even though it cut into their own supply.

By this time, the tribe decided that they needed to help the travelers learn to prepare for themselves. So they sent Patient Listener, the person from their tribe that they felt would be the best teacher for the travelers.

Patient Listener went and tried to help the travelers, but only a few listened to his advice and methods. Some people weren't sure whether to trust him or not. But the majority of the travelers disregarded Patient Listener altogether. Despite his attempts to be the thread that wove them all together, eventually he had to leave and go back to his own tribe.

Patient Listener told his tribe that he hadn't made much progress and that the travelers would most likely be back again and that this time they would probably be hostile. The tribe decided to move to a different region, but they would leave behind a bucket

fixed with poisonous herbs, so that if the travelers ate it they would die. Patient Listener didn't want them to do this, but they did anyway so he decided to stay behind to try and warn the travelers of the danger.

Sure enough, when the travelers arrived they were ready to go to war. But finding no one except Patient Listener, they took the poisoned bucket back to their people despite his protests.

He followed them to their homes, and all the while he warned them that the meat had been poisoned, but very few listened to him. The ones who listened and trusted him didn't eat any. The group who had previously not been sure if he was trustworthy ate a little. But most people ate their fill. The next morning, those who ate their fill were dead. Those who ate a little were sick. And those who trusted Patient Listener survived and learned from him about the Great Teacher of Tradition, so they were prepared for the next

winter season.

Lockwood performed a number of songs with Regina Tiosie, of the Navajo nation. Tiosie also sang and played guitar alone for several selections, including "Angels for Montgomery" by John Denver and "Long Black Bell" by Johnny Cash.

"This is an annual event we've done for almost ten years," said Fred Harris, adviser of the Native American club. "We try to bring out a variety of performers. It's our way of honoring Native American Heritage month at JJC. It's a chance to expose a wide variety of students to Native American culture."

"I was there from beginning to end and my favorite part was the story about Patient Listener," said JJC student Nathan Isaacson. "Later on I'll be able to recite that story to my own children. I've heard lots of stories at different reservations, but my favorite story came tonight."

Megan Costello, a pre-med major at JJC, is president of the Native American club.

"I loved it. I thought it was fascinating," said Costello. "It's a good way to get in touch with our culture."

"I loved the singing," said fellow student Donnie Brown. "They were great singers. It felt great to be a part of this."

Ashley Wells, who is one-quarter Cherokee, serves as vice president and secretary of the club.

"I'm glad we were able to give students at JJC this opportunity," Wells said.

She added that in honor of Native American Awareness month people can pick up feathers from the student center and other places around campus to wear as a tribute

Mentalist intrigues JJC students with his clever powers of the paranormal

By Brian Delaney

JJC students were recently privileged on Nov. 12 to witness one of the most mentally intriguing artists perform his act of psychic blasphemy. Advertised around campus as being a "mentalist," students were curious as to what exactly Christopher Carter's professional title meant.

Some thought he was an artist who works with metals.

Others thought he was the X-Files creator. But instead, Christopher Carter is just a clever man who has mastered the art forms of pseudo-psychology.

According to Carter's official website, he is recognized as one of the world's most skilled, "thought readers" or "mind readers," as well as one of the world's most creative and original hypnotists.

Watch out David Copperfield, your days are numbered.

Unlike performers who freeze themselves in ice or live in a glass box, Christopher Carter manages to deliver an entertaining show without coming across as a self-loving introvert. Like David Blaine.

He was professionally dressed and had a sense of humor that worked well on a college level. Although he magically appeared an hour late, a large number of students still gathered



Carter hypnotizes a student assistant and commands her to twist a spoon with telekinesis.

Photo by Adam Farcus

pretty vague.

"I felt a little uncomfortable around him when he stood by me. I knew he was reading my thoughts. I wanted to leave," stated Sports Editor Andrew Hrubec, who was one of the active participants in the audience.

Carter makes his rounds across

the country, visiting nearly 150 college campuses and other events every year. Such a task would be impossible for a person with average mental powers, but not for Mr. Carter-mentalist.

Besides mind reading, and other such related paranormal activities, Christopher Carter performed the class-

sic tricks of contorting solid metal, moving inanimate objects with his thoughts, and telling random people their social security numbers.

"I make predictions which come true in detail. I influence other people's thoughts. I cause objects to move using the power of my mind, and even teach audience members how to read the thoughts of others," states Carter.

Mentalists, or new-age magicians like Carter, thrive upon delving into people's selective attention and understanding body language.

In other words, look over here while I remove your wallet and run away.

All in all, it was a very humorous, entertaining show, albeit a little uncaring that someone is possibly reading my thoughts right now. Carter admits he never uses his powers for wrong-doings.

In any case, for those of you who refuse to accept the fact that Christopher Carter does not possess any supernatural powers, one should probably look into taking a Psychology 101 class as soon as possible.

If you would like to learn more about Carter and his supernatural abilities, visit his website at www.mindcramp.com where you order your own essential Carter t-shirt.

JJC POLICE REPORTS



- Tues. 10-28 Currency reported missing from cantina and Pepsi boxes. Valued under \$300.
- Wed. 10-29 Baby accidentally locked in vehicle.
- Wed. 10-29 Traffic stop at Centennial Commons for suspicious vehicle.
- Fri. 10-31 Theft. Four multimeters reported missing from the E 2012 class room.
- Fri. 10-31 Unauthorized Area Access. Several JJC football players were playing basketball in main campus gym after being informed not to do so.
- Tues. 11-4 Property Damage. C-concourse entrance door was accidentally slammed shut, glass pane in one door shattered.
- Thurs. 11-6 Cat Bite. Victim sustained bite from a cat in the Vet Tech Program. No ambulance necessary.
- Thurs. 11-6 Theft. Silverware reported missing at the City Center Campus. Valued under \$300.
- Mon. 11-10 Fire. JFD responded to a fire reported in the kitchen of unit 521 in the Centennial Commons.
- Fri. 11-7 Lost Article. Subject reported jacket missing at the fitness center.

Prepared by Brian Delaney



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CORRECTION TO NOVEMBER 5 ISSUE

In the last issue of Blazer, we credited Dr. Michael Kimmel with authoring *Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus*. The actual author is John Gray.

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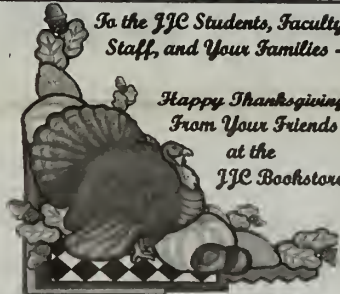


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'Revolutions' should've just been televised

By Matt Sheehan

The Matrix is everywhere. You see it when you turn on your television. When you go to church. Maybe even when you pay your taxes. Nevertheless, thank goodness the hype is over.

The Matrix: Revolutions is the final chapter in the story of Neo & Co.'s war against the machines that was filmed concurrently with the mediocre Reloaded, which came out this past spring. By the way, did I mention that it is the LAST one? I guess I didn't stress that enough, considering my feelings toward Revolutions.

Neo (Keanu Reeves) continues to explore his "One" true self, while continuing his junior high romance with Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss); and Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) stands around waiting for something to happen while looking like he's not sure what the hell he is doing there. Quite simply, this was a bit of a snore fest. Sure, it looked good. The Matrix series has always had superior special effects (still second to ILM's work). But just because a book cover looks good doesn't mean the story and dialogue will be. While watching Revolutions, I got bored during all the talking, excited when things picked up, and snoozed when the dialogue started again. I'm not saying this as a superficial human being who likes all flash and no cash (like the people who saw Bad Boys II). I'm just saying that all the dialogue was "blah-blah-bleeb-bleeb-blah-blee-blah."

Not all of Revolutions is bad. Hugo Weaving, as Agent Smith, solidifies his character's ranking as one of the most thoroughly evil and diabolical villains ever to be projected in a multiplexplex. Also, the character expansion of Niobe (a buff and somewhat sexy Jada Pinkett Smith) was a great addition. But where the hell was more Monica Bellucci, damnit?!? She



Keanu Reeves as Neo stands dumbfounded as he contemplates the sudden backlash from all of geekdom over his once beloved movie series.

was in there for, what, approximately 17.6942 seconds?

Anyway, the film seems to also suffer from the lack of one individual: Gloria Foster, who played the Oracle in the first and Reloaded.

Unfortunately, she died shortly

after her scenes for Reloaded were completed from complications to diabetes.

Now, Mary Alice does do her best with the all-knowing Oracle and even talks like her, so I do give her credit. However, she does not have the same

charming, Grandmotherly quality that the great Foster did.

I do admit that I will see Revolutions again (in IMAX, of course). I want to like it—especially after Reloaded—but I guess I may feel like Cypher from the first Matrix: "Why,

oh, why didn't I take the blue pill?"

Check out Matt's Movies & TV for coming reviews of Elf, Kill Bill: Volume I, Master & Commander: The Far Side of the World, and my alternate endings for Matrix: Revolutions! <http://www.matts-movies.com/>

JJC theater presents Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' with a cajun twist

By Rosalie Lewis

When most people think of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, they probably don't associate it with loud whoops and Mardi Gras beads being thrown into the audience, or blue-haired cross-dressers and Bourbon Street brawls. But as anyone who attended the recent JJC theatre production discovered, Shakespeare's timeless play can be adapted to fit many different settings.

Set in contemporary New Orleans a few weeks before Mardi Gras, *Romeo and Juliet* was directed by Clay Kirkland, with veterans of the stage Steve Elmore and Taya Langlois taking the roles of the title characters.

While the setting was modern, the dialogue remained completely Shakespearean, similar to Baz Luhrmann's 1996 movie. The cast made the old-style language more accessible by their gestures and body language, however; and even those who weren't well-versed in Old English could understand what was going on and being said with no trouble at all. Elmore and Langlois gave convincing performances, their passion evident in every syllable and wistful glance. Much more likable than the Leonardo DiCaprio/Clare Danes version of these classic characters, the two really brought the story to life, rein-



Steve Elmore and Taya Langlois play doomed lovers in 'Romeo and Juliet'

Photo courtesy Nicki Bowers

forcing the humanity of their roles.

The supporting cast also turned in remarkable performances. Mercutio, played by Matt Steffen, generated lots of laughter from the crowd with his over-the-top portrayal of this already amusing character. Jenna Stworzyjanek, who has appeared in numerous JJC productions, breathed new life into the role of Juliet's nurse, a character who could have been boring but was transformed into a memorable comedic element of the production.

Also impressive were Benvalio, played by Kevin Schaefer, Tybalt, portrayed by Nathan Martin and Paris, played by Eric Thompson. And of

course Friar Lawrence, who was played by Zach Bloomfield, was an integral part of the play and very likable as a character.

The rest of the large cast ensemble also did a great job in their various roles, making the play a success.

Though the story was a familiar one, this telling of it was outstanding. In fact, I liked this version of *Romeo and Juliet* better than any other I have seen so far. So if you have yet to see a JJC theatre production, go see one the next chance you get! Because before you know it, today's JJC theatre stars will become tomorrow's movie stars and you'll wish you had seen them here first.

Simple pleasure: 'The Wolves in the Walls'

Book review

'The Wolves in the Walls'

Written by Neil Gaiman

Illustrations by Dave McKean

By John Sebastian Ferrari

It is a sad trend that as a society we too often devalue simplicity. We forget that literature need not be overly complex to be both satisfying and touching. How strange that as we age, we forget what inspired our love for reading.

Simple stories are created to entertain young minds and hearts. However, *The Wolves in the Walls* by Neil Gaiman reminds us that even a picture book can entertain an adult mind.

In *The Wolves in the Walls* the reader follows the trail of Lucy, who discovers that wolves are living in her walls. Her attempts to warn her family are utterly futile, since each member seems to believe that it is all a creation of her childish mind. However, their denial is always followed by the warning, "When the wolves come out of the walls it's all over."

But is it? Not if Lucy has anything to do about it. Showing the sort of bravery and clarity of mind only a child may possess, Lucy then must attempt to lead her family in a fight to retake the house. The story itself is complimented

by the art of Dave McKean who has previously worked with Gaiman on *The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish*.

An established artist, McKean's work has dominated the covers of numerous books, comics and CDs.

He creates images that are haunting and ominous, and only add to the suspense. The art of McKean is unique in that it is able to stand on its own merits, unlike illustrations of many other books for the young reader.

Overall, *The Wolves in the Walls* is a wonderful change of pace for both the adult and young reader. Being such a stress-free read, this book is a perfect outlet for the pressures of the holiday season.

Likewise Wolves may help the reader recapture a more youthful mindset and peel away the jaded adult perceptions, if only for a moment.

The Wolves in the Walls can be found in the youth section of most bookstores. If the reader happens to rediscover their love for picture books, I also recommend *Where the Wild Things Are* for a more nostalgic read.

Beauty and the Beasts

Can a former NFL cheerleader find love with an ordinary guy?

By Lisa Frieri

Many beauties, including Heather Locklear and Kate Hudson, have fallen for bland rock stars. But can a beauty fall for an "Average Joe"?

This show features a young, pretty girl hoping to find the man of her dreams on reality TV. Here's the catch: Unlike the rest of the reality shows, with guys who are tall, dark and handsome, the guys of "Average Joe" are clumsy, goofy, short and fat.

Melana, the woman caught in the middle of this show, said she was looking for a personality over looks. NBC took her at her word.

Before any of the bopefuls arrived, an attractive man stepped out of a limo, but only to say the men were arriving shortly. A bus drove up to the driveway (some were too big to fit in a limo) and the look on Melana's face went from excitement to horror as she saw her potential suitors arriving one by one. Another woman was standing by if Melana was unable to go on with the show, but she stuck with it.

By the second episode, egos started flaring as the men vied for Melana's affections. Zach, a 28-year-old real estate agent, and one of the more attractive guys, picked a fight with John, one of the more nerdy guys.

"John is a nerd. John is boring. I guess it's just me being an ass," Zach said.

John is not the only one that has a problem with Zach. In the first episode, Zach smashed an egg on Marc's head just because of his 5'4" stature. Later



Smiles and smooches - Melana and contestant Adam cozy up for a couple of publicity shots.

Photos courtesy of NBC

in the second episode, Zach scored a one-on-one date with Melana after winning a rock climbing competition, much to the other guys' dismay.

"The energy that comes out of Zach just grabs me in the right way," Melana explained, after making out with Zach on their date.

After his high point with Melana, Zach faced embarrassment when Adam tells Melana he's prepared for his date with her, showing her gum and breath mints after hearing about her date with Zach.

Zach got what was coming to him

for ripping on several other guys.

Melana's next date did not go so smoothly. John, a 28-year-old director's assistant, started singing in Austrian, which came across as more awkward than endearing. As if this wasn't bad enough, he overreacted to Melana's polite, quick peck by proclaiming he's in love.

In the elimination ceremony, six guys were eliminated and some even learned a lesson or two. Dennis touched everyone's hearts and taught Zach a lesson in humanity.

Dennis definitely made Zach

more of a man," Melana later said.

He tried his best at winning her heart, commenting "I didn't get the girl in this experience, but I got a whole lot more."

An average joe that stands out is Tarco, a 21-year-old college professor of comparative religion from Harare, Zimbabwe. He has been playing it coy and has been winning points with Melana. He was even one of the four picked for a one-on-one date.

Kathy Griffin is the host of show, and is a die hard reality TV show fan herself, even appearing on "Celebrity

Mole" last year.

On a recent TV Guide channel interview, Griffin put her spin on the show.

"Half [of the guys] in the bag think they have a shot." She also commented that she had to tone down her humor for the show and not rip on the guys so much.

So will a beauty find love with an "Average Joe?"

America will just have to watch and find out.

"Average Joe" comes on Mondays at 9 on NBC.

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'Threat Matrix'

TV thriller capitalizes on post-9/11 tensions



Can you hear me now? An exciting sequence from Threat Matrix.

By Trist Rader

Many who scroll through the TV guide and see the "Threat Matrix" may sigh and say, "another reality show, no thank you!" Or maybe a spin-off of The Matrix with hunky star Keanu Reeves? But as I sat there one night watching it, I couldn't keep my eyes off of the TV. Definitely a series for the post-9/11 generation, ABC's Threat Matrix detailed the exploits of an elite task-force unit of Homeland Security. Headed by John Kilmer (Jamie Denton), the unit, comprised of the only the best of the FBI, CIA, and NSA, was dedicated to stopping terrorism before it started, using the multitude of threats and warnings received on a constant basis by the White House as their guide. Threat Matrix debuted September 18, 2003.

The show draws its start with excitement the minute it begins. Action, drama and a hint of truth. It has derived from the fact that there actually is a Threat Matrix—a true-to-life, alarming top-secret document that warns the president of daily threats against the United States. It has always been a mystery to most Americans. But this new ABC prime-time

Photo courtesy of ABC

series by the same name could shed more light on just what the document is about.

Richard Clarke, former counterterrorism czar for the Bush administration says in an interview on ABC News, the daily Threat Matrix is reserved for review each morning by a very small group, which includes the president. It actually looks like a spreadsheet. The 15-to-20-page spreadsheet of potential threats from around the globe typically focuses on a dozen or so threats.

It was created four years ago when intelligence officials say they started to become overwhelmed by the volume of incoming intelligence on potential threats. The point of the Matrix is to help experts detect critical patterns that might be missed otherwise.

The Threat Matrix is comprised of all the different threats that might be happening around the world and put together then turned into an equation. At one stage, the CIA put the Matrix together. Now it's a multi-agency effort, in an attempt to make sure nothing is missed simply because bureaucracies might not be talking.

In the series, Kilmer's squad in-

cludes his headstrong ex-wife, Frankie Elroy Kilmer (Kelly Rutherford), a gorgeous blonde who's as tough as a combat boot. She relies on her gut instinct and has criminal behavioral knowledge to predict what might happen; a CIA-trained Egyptian-American named Mo Adasi (Anthony Azizi); Jelani Harper (Mahershala Ali), an African-American computer genius formerly with the National Security Agency, always breaking code, using satellite cameras, tracking emails and retrieving data for the team; and a lip-reading specialist named Holly (deaf actress Shoshannah Stem). They're the best there is at what they do.

The high-tech team goes through and verifies a threat situation showing the world in great detail what our government does to protect us. And you thought we were behind times in technology? I don't, think so.

Could this be good to show on TV, giving ideas to potential bad guys? They show everything else, so why not? It gave me a great respect for Homeland Security and what we will do to protect ourselves. Yes, this is sort of a mixture of "24," "Alias," and "CSI" showing terrorism, threats, analytical processes and high-tech equipment. But I have to say, it is exciting knowing this all actually happens here in the USA.

Maybe our fellow Americans will show more support and happily participate in the long drawn-out security checks at airports and security checkpoints at our nation's Capital and tourist attractions instead of complaining and pointing fingers at all the people who have worked hard to guarantee our safety.

Working on cutting edge technology, this secret team fights the many faces of terrorism to keep America safe. The one flaw in Kilmer's dream team is his ex-wife, Frankie. Together they've dodged devastating outcomes of all varieties, except their marriage.

The buzz is back!

'Texas Chainsaw Massacre' remake rips into theaters



Leatherface returns: the face that's launched a thousand nightmares.

Photo courtesy New Line

By Trista Pennington

You would think it would be hard to sneak up on someone with a chainsaw buzzing, but director Marcus Nispel finds a way to instill fear into his audience with a remake of the 1974 classic "Texas Chainsaw Massacre."

This time around, the plot line is varied slightly. For the first time since the original movie, the only survivor of what many consider to be the most gruesome mass murder case ever has come forward.

The story opens as a group of teenagers are driving home from Mexico to attend a Lynard Skynard concert. Suddenly they pass a very distraught-

looking girl, and they decide to pull over and help her. They soon discover that this action will change their lives, or what's left of them, forever.

Jessie Bled gives the leading role as "Erin," a fresh appeal by not portraying the typical "dumb chick" in this horror film while Andrew Bryniarski gives justice to her counterpart as the crazed "Leatherface."

The movie is rated R, and rightfully so, for its graphic scenes of horrific violence. This film is not intended for people who have a weak stomach, so stay clear if you cannot handle gore. Otherwise, grab some friends and head out to see this suspense thriller!

The Blazer is seeking writers for spring semester. Interested in seeing your work in print? Contact our editors at 280-2313 or blazermail@jjc.edu

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Concert Review

The Golden Age of Grotesque

By Jessica E. Perez

Were you out on Friday, Oct. 17 and wondered, "Where did all of the gothic people go? Well, many of them stormed the Aragon Ballroom to see Marilyn Manson.

There were many people sporting Manson T-shirts and many like me dressed semi-normal, anticipating not only the music but the antics of the antichrist superstar.

The opening band called S.T.U.N. ran onto the stage. They were heckled by the crowd almost instantly. The lead singer screamed, "Give me your hate!" And the crowd did.

After a forty-five minute wait for the always cool but controversial performer to appear onstage, the curtain finally dropped and he appeared sitting on a chair and being lowered onto the stage.

He opened with "This is the New Sh*t," followed by amazing versions of "Dope Show," "Use Your Fist and Not Your Mouth" and "Beautiful People."

During the "Fight Song," some people next to me took it a little too seriously and an actual fight broke out.

Overall though, the crowd was unusually tame for a Manson show, at least until "Beautiful People" came on. This may have been due to the diverse age group in the audience, because there was a good mix of both younger and older fans at the show.

The stage antics were also tame. But that didn't detract from the show. In my opinion this was a great concert with a lot of energy.

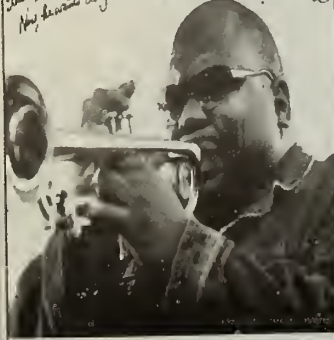
The most memorable quote of the evening came when Manson addressed some protests taking place in Mexico. "I don't worship Manson," said "He worship



Marilyn Manson and his band of merry men.

Photo courtesy of Interscope Records

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Grandpa
I watch me to be an accountant.
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Board games become new craze: Scrabble makes itself at home on ESPN

By Andrew Hrubec

There has never been a sport quite like it. The intensity and vigor exuded by these stellar competitors is unlike anything that anyone has ever seen before. These athletes may not have the physical strength that a football player has or the athletic ability that a basketball player has, but they do have the intelligence that can only be found in one sport—Scrabble.

Following a shocking Bears loss on Nov. 9, I found myself tuning to ESPN to add to my Sunday sports fix. To my dismay, I didn't find any football, basketball or even bass fishing. Instead, I saw a group of Star Trek geeks huddled around a board game scurrying to find words that even Merriam-Webster would need to look up.

Sure, any reasonable person can argue that Scrabble isn't a sport, but tell that to ESPN. Following the success of the World Series of Poker, ESPN needed to find another up-and-coming sport to help rejuvenate an

almost nonexistent fan base. What's better than watching middle aged virgins struggle to get a triple word score?

I don't know if you can consider any competition a sport when a person can eat or drink while actively participating, but maybe that's what other sports are missing. I know I'd enjoy watching Eddy Curry scarf down a cheeseburger while attempting a dunk. Better yet, why not allow Chicago Bears running back Rahib Abdullah the chance to drink on the field as opposed to behind the wheel of his car?

JJC student Christopher Brownson is a sports fanatic. When asked how he feels about the sudden Scrabble craze, he responded by saying that "it's word-a-rific."

Just picture a world where sports as we know them will become passé and we are all subjected to heavy doses of Monopoly and Uno tournaments broadcast live on ESPN. Children will be forced by their parents to become the Michael Jordan of Guess Who.

And as opposed to the NBA and NFL, the only age restrictions would be the ones labeled on the box, for ages six and up. Also, because there is no actual physical activity involved in playing board games, women could participate against men. Annika Sorenstam would be just another pretty face amongst these great competitors. Could there be a more perfect scenario?

The days of watching grown men frolic around a football field are over. The new wave of sports entertainment has come with a carefree disregard for any sport that may interfere with its hostile takeover. The board game phenomenon is not just another fad, and just as JJC student Mark Perrine stated, Scrabble is better than football any day.

"I would rather watch a game of Scrabble than watch a Chicago Bears game because watching the Bears is like watching that kid Corky from 'Like Goes On' try to play football," Perrine said.

With that, all I can say is, YAHTZEE! Game on!

JJC BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

Men's Basketball

- Nov. 22 Milwaukee Area Technical College at home 3 p.m.
- Nov. 28 JJC Thanksgiving Tournament St. Xavier JV at home 1 p.m.
- Nov. 29 JJC Thanksgiving Tournament Consolation Game at home 5 p.m.
- Nov. 29 Championship Game at 7 pm
- Dec. 2 Olivet Nazarene University JV at home 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6 Madison Tech College at home 3 p.m.
- Dec. 12-14 Kankakee Community College Tournament away TBA
- Dec. 19-20 Kennedy-King College Classic away TBA

Women's Basketball

- Nov. 21 Anoka-Ramsey at home 6:00 p.m.
- Nov. 22 Milwaukee Area Technical College at home 1 p.m.
- Nov. 28-29 JJC Thanksgiving Tournament at home TBA
- Dec. 2 Wilbur Wright College Home 5 p.m.
- Dec. 4 Moraine Valley Community College away 5 p.m.
- Dec. 9 Waukegan College at home 5 p.m.
- Dec. 11 Kennedy-King College at home 5 p.m.
- Dec. 13 Carthage College JV at away 10:30 a.m.

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JJC men's soccer gets the boot— Wolves lose to COD in tournament

By Adam Fox

On Oct. 29, the JJC Men's soccer team played their first playoff game against Morton College. Although it was a blistering cold Wednesday afternoon, JJC was spectacular. The team was led by freshman goalkeeper Marcos Rodriguez, who had one of his best games against Morton. He consistently made great saves that kept the Wolves in the game. Rodriguez was able to shutout Morton; but just like their counterpart, the Wolves were shutout by Morton as well.

Despite a lack of offense in regulation, the Wolves tuned it on in both overtime periods. Since the regulation period ended in a draw, the Wolves and Morton were forced into a shoot-out. The Wolves scored four times. The scorers were Fernando Garcia, C J Abney, Eduardo Jimenez and Derek Beckham. However, Morton also allocated four goals, so a second overtime was played. And in this shoot-out, the Wolves dominated Morton by a final score of 9-7.

This was a huge game for the Wolves. The performance from Rodriguez was no surprise, as he had been dominating all season long.



Robert Guesel (left) and Eduardo Jimenez try to control a COD Mustang.

Photo courtesy JJC Media Services

However, every beginning must have an end. On Saturday, Nov. 1, the Wolves lost a heartbreaker to the College of DuPage by the final score of 5-0. The Chaparrals, ranked number three by the NCAA, capitalized on the mistakes made by the Wolves. With that loss, the Chaparrals kicked the

Wolves out of the playoffs.

The loss to COD ended a very good season in which they finished with an overall record of 10-7.

Will next years team be just as good or will they be better than this year's team? We can only hope for the latter.

Tip Off

Men's basketball begins with bounce

By Andrew Hrubec

The Wolves are well on their way to putting together a great season. After there Madison Tech College Tournament the Wolves are undefeated, a perfect 5-0. Behind the play of sophomores Michal Vavrek and Earl Hughes, the team has a lethal combination of size, strength, speed and pure athletic ability.

The season opener pinned JJC against Morton College. The Wolves won that contest 92-80 behind the scorching onslaught of Vavrek and Hughes. The tandem combined for 49 of the teams 92 points.

"After getting the first game under our belts, we just have to continue to improve," coach Joe Kuhn said.

Using their height as an advantage, the Wolves dominated the University of St. Francis JV in an 80-57 win. Vavrek recorded a team high 26 points, and 13 rebounds, and fellow sophomore Troy Shanks contributed 13 points.

After another stellar performance from Vavrek and Hughes, the Wolves beat Oakton College 72-66. Oakton was a tough team to put away. After JJC would gain a sizeable lead, Oakton was able to use rebounding to help close the gap.

In the end, the Wolves proved to be the better team.



Michal Vavrek (44) and Earl Hughes (25) jockey for position in the paint.

Photo courtesy JJC Athletic Department guard Jawand Gage, were named to the All-Tournament Team.

The Wolves are currently ranked No. 13 among Division III schools and Kuhn believes that as long as they continue to improve from one game to the next, the team will be in great shape down the stretch.

With the Wolves entering a stretch in which they play 10 of 12 games at home, they should be able to remain among the top in their division.

In the Madison Tech College Tournament, the Wolves defeated Madison Technical College 85-74 on Friday, November 14. Following they defeated Rochester Community College 78-75 on Saturday, November 15. The leading scorer for the Wolves was sophomore shooting guard Troy Shanks. Shanks hooked up on seven three-pointers against Madison Tech, to lead all scorers with 21 points. Shanks, along with freshman point

Athletes of The Issue



Rob Ninkovich

Ninkovich, a sophomore defensive end, led the Wolves all season long. His awe-inspiring play on the field and passionate leadership helped lead the Wolves to a record of 7-3. Despite a disappointing season, Ninkovich led the team in sacks. Not only did he lead the team, but he also broke the school's all-time single season sack record with 16. Ninkovich surpassed last year's record holder Josh Chrestman.



Michal Vavrek

Sophomore Michal Vavrek is truly a force for the JJC Wolves men's basketball team.

A native of Bystrica, Slovakia, Vavrek attended Highland High School in Indiana and is currently in his second year as a member of the Wolves' basketball team.

The 6-foot-8, 225-pound center—after the first three games of the season—is averaging 23.3 points and 13.3 rebounds per game. Vavrek's size and ability to score will be a key to the success of this year's team.

Breaking out: The Lady Wolves look to make a slam dunk

By Adam Fox

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, the JJC Lady Wolves started their third season under head coach Tony Giese. This season appears to be a breakout year for the Lady Wolves.

With hopes of breaking .500, the team looks to build a respectable program.

But this year's team is a predominantly young squad that up of mostly freshmen. The only returning sophomore starter is Kelly Pero.

"Last year she had outstanding

numbers. She just got elected to be the first team all-American this year.

Which is a great, great honor and is real difficult to do," said Giese in regards to team captain Pero.

This season, unlike last year, is more of a fast pace offense where passing and agility are the keys to success, as opposed to the low-post style that they played with last season.

This year the freshman will have to lead the team in order for them to have any success.

Guards Julie Schmidt and

NEXT UP:

Nov. 21 JJC home game vs. Anoka-Ramsey Community College, 6 p.m.

Kathryn Burbank will be the deadly scoring one-two punch that this team needs.

"Julie Schmidt has already emerged as a star within herself. She is emerging already as possibly an upper echelon athlete," said Giese on his star freshman guard.

The goal for this year's team is to

get above .500, which would be around 15 to 16 wins.

And if the first two games of the season were any keys to how the year will be, expect them to meet their goal.

In the Lady Wolves first game versus Morton College, the girls lost to Morton 63-75. The leading scorer was Schmidt who scored 17 points and also played some excellent defense, with seven steals.

After coming together in their first game the Lady Wolves put a thumping on Oakton Community College by

a final score of 56-27.

Leading the way once again, was Schmidt with 16, followed by Pero with 12. But more importantly, the team has aspirations of making it to a national tournament. Although this might seem like a lofty goal for such a young team, nothing is impossible if you have the determination and skill to do it.

And with Giese having these girls believing in themselves and playing with passion, great things may be ahead of them.



McCraith, pg. 9



Bad Santa, pg. 12

Campus community strives to reach 'Common' ground

Student housing complex ironing out wrinkles; making adjustments for the future

By Kevin Milligan & Jim Allocco

It is no secret that Centennial Commons has its problems.

Since the Commons opened in the fall of 2002, stories featured in both the *Herald-News* and the *Blazer* have included accounts of assault, armed robbery, shots fired and even arson. One story reported a fight involving 300 people that spilled over to the Commons after the conclusion of a rap concert held on campus. Each incident added fuel to the growing concerns over an idea initially gone wrong.

In the past nine months, JJC has made a number of improvements to smooth out the problems that occurred last year. Among the changes implemented were the hiring of a new management and Residential Assistant (RA) staff, including Connolly, the addition of 16 security cameras, increased routine patrols by both police forces, rigorous background checks for potential residents and a consistent enforcement of pre-existing policies relating to visitors and alcohol. Both the administration and the management feel the changes demonstrate an effort to head off potential problems before they start.

So far, the changes have helped. Though the problems haven't completely ceased, the nature and frequency of the complaints have diminished noticeably. Common complaints this semester range from noise violations, alcohol infractions and small-time thefts, things that any four-year institutional dorm would compare to, said Judy Munroe, interim vice president of Business Services. "The nature of problems are much more typical now," she added.

However, some Centennial Commons residents say many problems still exist.

Every student interviewed for this article requested anonymity, saying they feared repercussions from other residents.

A number of interviewees stated that they had been harassed or threat-



Although it has subtle problems, Centennial Commons provides convenient housing for many students.

Photo by Brian Delaney

ened at the Commons before. One female student reported to the RA's that her former roommate threatened her with a knife. Although the student was later moved into a different room, she said she still doesn't feel safe. Another female resident reported that her door had been kicked in and several items stolen. One male student even reported getting shot in the car by a BB gun.

It wasn't supposed to be this way.

Proposed around the summer of 2000 and breaking ground in the fall

of 2001, the board of trustees voted on the idea of providing students with housing adjacent to the campus, according to Munroe. Illinois State law prohibits junior and community colleges from having student housing or dorms on campus grounds. JJC, working in conjunction with the Houston-based Century Campus Housing Management, developed the apartment-style housing on private land. Its target was initially to draw students who majored in culinary arts, agriculture

and horticulture, nursing and other programs that JJC is regionally and nationally renowned for, Munroe said. The first residents matriculated in the fall of 2002.

The college and Century Campus Housing appeared to be caught by surprise by some of the problems at the facility. Munroe attributes some of the problems in the past to typical growing pains that any new project would experience. Few other community colleges around the state have attempted

a similar idea.

"There was no blueprint for what we were doing here," she stated. "We're still working out the bugs."

Another snag the project experienced was determining whether the campus police or the Joliet city police would have primary jurisdiction. Because the Commons is situated off of official campus property, it produces jurisdictional issues between the law enforcement bodies.

Technically, the Joliet Police Department is supposed to be the first unit to respond to problems, although the campus police can take action as per the situation, said campus police Chief Pete Comanda. "I think we understood what our responsibilities were [as Campus Police], but were just trying to figure out what works best," he commented.

Another issue was the functional cohesion between the two separate legal entities, Munroe explained. The "division of ownership" between the privately owned housing management company and the publicly-funded school created difficulties in the smooth management of affairs of the students and the facility. Christina Connolly, the interim managing director for Centennial Commons, acknowledges the difficult task for both sides in her own day-to-day dealings, bridging the gap between the campus and Century Housing.

"I wear two hats, the business hat and the student affairs hat," Connolly said.

In spite of the Centennial Commons' tarnished past, the faculty and management staff insist that things have gotten remarkably better.

However, several of the students interviewed said that drug use is still a big problem. When asked about the frequency, one female student replied that it was "an everyday occurrence." She also said that another student, who she claims sells drugs, has harassed her. Yet another male student

See Commons on page 4



Holiday cheer brightens up Joliet Junior College

Holiday decorations have begun popping up throughout the halls of Joliet Junior College, helping students, staff and faculty get in the mood to throw off the shackles of another semester and partake in some post-finals holiday festivities. To help get you in that yuletide spirit, be sure to check out our photo spread of Christmas happenings around campus on page 10.

BLAZER VIEW

JJC In December

Textbooks roasting on an open fire

Report cards nipping at your ego

Yuletide carols being sung by JJC chorale,

And many cars stuck in ditches of snow.

Everybody fails a final and some

Caffeine pills help to make the drowsy right

Tiny tots with their smokes all aglow

Will find it hard to study tonight

They know that J.D. Ross is on his way

He's loaded heaps of tariffs and fees

On your holiday bill to pay.

And ev'ry li'l boy and girl's

Parent gonna flip to see

A past due notice, to their dismay.

And so, I'm offering this

Simple cliché to students from

One to twelve-thousand-two

Altho' it's been said many times, many ways;

"Merry Christmas,

Feliz Navidad, Happy Hanukah,

Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Ramadan, to you"

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"An acoustic guitar."

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Political Science



"bowling ball."

Jason Sossong, 24
Network Specifications/
Computer Science



"An espresso machine."

Olivia Hendershott, 25
Art



"A new tower for my computer."

Erin Molburg, 23
Special Education

LETTER POLICY

The *Blazer* encourages participation from readers through letters.

Please sign and provide a phone number for all letters so we can verify the authenticity of the letter and sender. All letters should be kept to 300 words or less. We reserve the right to edit letters for space and content. You may send letters through interoffice or regular mail, email, or by dropping them off at the *Blazer* office at F-1009.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I realize this letter is a little late, but I needed to address something that I read regarding patriotism. This is neither going to be a rant against or a song of praise for the Bush Administration. It is also not a statement as to whether or not we were right to go to war with Iraq or Afghanistan.

There was one issue mentioned that caught my attention, because it's an issue that our nation has been struggling with long before Bush took office. That is the issue of sacrificing personal freedom for safety. That one concept covers a lot of law that were passed, ranging from mandatory seat belt and helmet laws, to gun control and the state of Illinois prohibition of fireworks.

I have nothing against common sense safety rules. In fact, I always wear my seat belt when I drive anywhere, and I always wear my helmet when I ride my motorcycle. I made the decision as an adult to do that because it makes

good sense to do so. I do not need the government's help in making those decisions. In fact, I resent the increasing level of intrusiveness on their part into my personal life. I do not need surrogate parents and I resent them telling me what I can and cannot have in the name of safety and security. It is not the place of our elected officials to look over our shoulders, making sure that we wear our seatbelts, don't play with fire crackers on the Fourth of July, or watch too much violent TV.

Whether I own a gun, or make any other decision that may be deemed "unsafe" is my own personal business. The government has nothing to say about it. I will not give up my personal liberty. In fact, I will even go as far as to say that it's worth sacrificing safety to keep our freedoms. Besides, who was it who said "If we give up our freedom to be safe, we will be neither free nor safe."

Michael D. O'Brien
Media Services

Everyone at the Blazer:

On behalf of the Speech Team at Joliet Junior College I want to say THANKS for the great article about our first tournament this year! The students on the team invest a significant amount of time in

preparing for each trip – and it's wonderful when they get some public recognition for their efforts.

So, thanks!
Bobette Wolesensky
Director of Forensics

NEWS BRIEFS

Madrigal Feast

JJC's 26th Annual Madrigal Feast promises to be an outstanding evening of food, service, drama, and music. The event begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12 with a reception in the Atrium. Philip Spencer serves as musical director of the 2003 JJC Chamber Singers. The JJC Brass Quintet, under the direction of Jerry E. Lewis, will provide Renaissance, Baroque and traditional music of the season throughout the evening. Tickets are \$38 per person with all proceeds benefiting music scholarships. Call ext. 2223 for reservations.

Carols and Chocolate winter concert

Led by Philip Spencer, director of Choral and Vocal Music, the JJC Chorale will present its annual winter concert, *Carols and Chocolate*, on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. The concert will be followed by a complimentary buffet of chocolate delights provided by the Chorale members and other donors. Tickets will be sold at the box office on the day of the concert from 2–3 p.m. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens, non-JJC students, JJC faculty and staff and \$2 for JJC students.

Staff members graduate from leadership school

Congratulations to Kim Dockus, dean of Enrollment Services; Yolanda Isaacs, director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs; and Ryan Smith, dean of Institutional Effectiveness. All three JJC staff members are recent graduates of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership School. The graduation banquet took place at the Rialto Square Theatre.

New Board Members

New Board of Trustee officers were voted in at the November 18 JJC Board of Trustee meeting held at North Campus. Trustee Jeff May of Minooka is the new chairman. Jim McFarland of Joliet is vice-chairman, and Judy DeVriendt of New Lenox is secretary. They will serve in this capacity for one year.

Percussion Ensemble

The JJC Percussion Ensemble will present their Winter Concert on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. The ensemble is under the direction of Terry Peoples. The concert will present a variety of percussion music featuring graduates of area high schools. Admission is free.

Speech Team Wins Awards

At the competition held Saturday, Dec. 6, at College of Lake County in Grayslake, the JJC Speech Team competed against 11 other schools, including North Central College and Illinois State University. They received a total of three trophies. Jenna Stworzyanek and Kevin Schaefer took third place in Duo Interpretation, Matt Steffan won fifth place in Dramatic Interpretation and Chad Schumacher brought home fifth place trophy in Speech to Entertain. The next tournament is January 23 and 24 at College of DuPage.

Blazer staff holiday favorites revealed!

What's your favorite Christmas movie?

Brian Delaney: I know I can always watch Christmas Story at least 10 times a day on HBD with a glass of rich, chocolatey Ovaltine and my bichon" decoder ring.

Rose Lewis: Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas"

Steven Awalt: Rankin/Bass Christmas specials: "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "Frost Without a Santa Claus." Growing up with these on TV annually, the films just mean Christmas to me.

Andrew Hrubec: I had always been a huge fan of Christmas classics like "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" and "Scrooged." But "Bad Santa" has quickly moved up to numero uno on my all time list.

Adam Fox: "A Christmas Story"

Adam Marcus: "It's A Wonderful Life"

Trista Pennington: "A Christmas Story"

What's your favorite holiday song/Christmas carol?

Rose Lewis: Joy to the World; any song from Hanson's Snowed In album (No, I have not sought professional help for this.)

Brian Delaney: "Wonderful Christmas Time" by Paul McCartney. If I'm gonna listen to holiday music, I'm gonna rock on!

Steven Awalt: Carol of the Bells

Andrew Hrubec: "Happy Christmas (War is Over)" by John Lennon

Adam Fox: Silent Night

Adam Marcus: "Christmas time for my Penis"

Trista Pennington: Silent Night

Does your family have a particular holiday tradition?

Brian Delaney: I, along with many other traditional families, unwrap American made gifts and presents from Santa Claus under an American grown Christmas tree on December 25th.

Rose Lewis: My family goes car-

oling every year with a group of people from church. No matter how cold it is or how many people can actually carry a tune, we always have a good time. Afterwards we have hot cider and Christmas cookies.

Steven Awalt: We watch the Rankin/Bass Christmas specials mentioned above—and now I have the joy of sharing these films with my kids!

Andrew Hrubec: Our only family tradition is that everyone is together no matter what the circumstances.

Adam Fox: Go over to my aunt's on Christmas Eve and all the family opens gifts and eats a big meal. One person each year reads the story of Christ's birth.

Adam Marcus: Opening gifts Christmas morning in my underwear.

Trista Pennington: The only habitual ritual we have is making sure the tree is up the weekend after Thanksgiving.

What do you want for Christmas this year?

Brian Delaney: Dear Santa, Instead of gifts this year, all I want is for you to please bring my brother back for me. I would like to see him just one more time. It would mean a lot to me. It's been very hard, with just my parents and me at home. I miss him so much, and he's gone now. He spends all of his time with his girlfriend at school and he never comes home anymore. Good luck trying to get a hold of him. The jerk never calls back. Say hi to Rudolph and the others for me. Yours Truly, Brian Delaney.

Rose Lewis: Trivial Pursuit: Lord of the Rings edition and a new car stereo

Steven Awalt: Only one thing: the "Alien Quadrilogy" DVD boxset.

Andrew Hrubec: The Olson Twins

Adam Fox: Besides the traditional things, CDs, movies... I guess it doesn't matter.

Adam Marcus: A Penguin

Trista Pennington: A new printer and scanner for my computer.

Happy
holidays
from
the
Blazer

Deconstructing Christmas traditions

By Matt Furlane

I received a call last week from my friend Jack Derrida, who works in the Ministry of Culture (MOC). He informed me that a local socially marginalized sub-group was upset by the American media's use of the word "Christmas."

"They were perturbed because the word conferred upon the public a restricting meta-narrative," Jack said. "They found Christmas to be problematic to underpowered sub-groups in the United States because they encoded dominant ethnographic and gynopolitical ideologies and legitimized a 'Totalizing Discourse' with phrases like 'WE wish YOU a merry Christmas.'"

According to Jack the MOC has responded by ordering the word "Christmas" removed from all movies, web sites, and newspapers and replaced with the officially sanctioned term, "MID-WINTER FESTIVAL" (MWF). Anyone caught using the old word will be fined or imprisoned. So, from now on it's, "Ho, Ho, Ho, merry Mid-Winter Festival."

The sub-group also said there was a hidden 'subtext' in the holiday narratives.

"Both secular and Christian meanings of MWF are well known," said Jack. "The traditional Christmas meaning was rooted in both pagan and Roman practices of sun worship dating back centuries. It was incorporated into Christianity around 320 AD, when Pope Julius chose December 25th as the day to celebrate the birth of Christ. The secular version of MWF is an ever evolving story rooted in several traditions and centers around Santa and toys. And oddly it's this version that the sub-group was most suspicious because of its unique symbolism."

According to Jack the MOC has spent months trying to find the hidden 'meanings' of the secular MWF narrative. "We've discovered a host of



Santa: the new anti-P.C. poster boy spreads ill-will and malcontent to the underprivileged masses across the globe.

problems," he said. "The narrative is logocentric and a transitory social construct that problematizes societal problems by imposing a hegemonic narrative upon its adherents by using vague cultural signifiers."

Which ones? I asked. "First, Santa Claus is dressed in red. This color has been used by authoritarian regimes such as the old Soviet Union. This color signifies the 'Red Army' and thus excludes other armies. Also the color symbolizes a representative of the State employed by the current power structure to spy on its citizens. This interpretation coincides with the lyrics in the famous song 'Santa Claus is coming to town.'"

"He's making a list (A Black list) And checking it twice (FBI, CIA Data Bases)"

"He'll find out who's naughty or nice (Ibid.)"

"He knows when you're sleeping (Satellite imagery)"

"He knows when you're awake

(Ibid.)

"He knows when you've been bad or good (Ibid.)"

"So be good for goodness sake (or for the good of the state)"

"Although some have argued that a man dressed in red velvet at night signifies a cultural shift concerning received notions of masculinity, the traditional communist use of red and the lyrics, confirm a Stalin like signification."

"Second, Santa's labor policies are problematic. The use of reindeer for commercial transport says to the world that it's 'OK' to ignore local labor unions and violate animal rights if it helps cut costs. Also the use of elves, a small and obscure ethnically uniform people, for cheap labor has been coming under wider public scrutiny for encouraging the exploitation of loopholes in the NAFTA agreement."

After cons of living peacefully in the forest and cultivating a culture of craftsmanship, elves are now working

year round for no wages in a soulless global corporation. This says to the world business community that it's OK to send your labor to a third world country and economically enslave indigenous peoples."

"Lastly, Santa is a large male of Anglo-Saxon or Nordic descent who goes into people's homes in the middle of the night expecting milk and cookies. I must admit as an Italian American this part of the narrative is culturally difficult to Mediterranean peoples. A strange person showing up in your home uninvited wearing a red suit with a sack over his shoulder could find himself under six feet of snow. For many people Santa is a signifier of past European colonialism and forced homogeneity. The lyrics from the song 'I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas' confirm this interpretation."

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas (Ethnically Uniform) With every Christmas card I write.

(To select people only)

"May your days be merry and bright (Free of non-white peoples) And may all your Christmases be white. (Ethnically Uniform)"

The entire Santa Clause myth is a cultural attempt to systematize hierarchical social structures that teach children that it's 'OK' to appropriate Elvish history and recontextualize a holiday in order to reinforce inherently problematic notions of labor so long as you give gifts and codify it in a narrative."

Jack said much more was in the narrative that was problematic, including the use of pine trees as a validation of deforestation. But an 'official' revision of MWF would be published for the 'official' MWF season that would help make angry sub-groups more comfortable this holiday season. I thanked him and he wished me and JJ a holly jolly Mid-Winter Festival from everyone at the MOC.

Commons

Continued from pg. 1

says that the odor of marijuana is prevalent on a regular basis.

Maintenance issues accumulate as well. Centennial Commons has one maintenance man and a part-time assistant for 250 residents. Trash and broken bottles litter the courtyard and volleyball court. Window screens are strewn about the stairs and hallways, along with shattered remains of light bulbs and fixtures. One porch light appears to have been shot out. Several of the emergency hallway floodlights have been broken off, as well as a few of the illuminated exit signs. One student's apartment had a broken light fixture, several faulty power outlets, a non-functional garbage disposal and a weekly half-hour power outage problem.

Most of the students interviewed seem to have a common complaint: They feel that the staff are not doing their jobs. Some said they no longer bother reporting problems because previous attempts to report things met with little or no response. Other residents hinted that certain RA's are friends with "troublemakers," and tend to turn a blind eye to policy infractions, from visitors to lights to alcohol.

"How can you not hear 75 people screaming 'Kill Him!' in the courtyard, or smell when a door has been set on fire?" one student wondered.

Others feel that the current RA's just don't care enough to enforce the rules, or don't enforce them consistently. The majority of the students interviewed didn't even know who their building RA was. This may be due to an inability to keep a permanent staff. Centennial Commons has gone through 2 other managers in the past 8 months, as well as several RA's. Several residents interviewed said that they don't feel safe living there, and will not be returning next year.

Comanda, Connolly and Munroe are quick to point out that the entire fault doesn't lie solely with the Commons staff, and that things won't change overnight.

"People need to take a vested interest if they want to change things," Connolly declared. She said that if reports aren't lodged, it is difficult to remedy them. She also said that students can lodge anonymous complaints to any of the RA's or herself, or go to the website and lodge a complaint.

Connolly and Munroe also stress the need to establish a communal feeling. They feel that many students don't know who their neighbors or RA's are because they don't take the initiative



A damaged exit sign dangles precariously above a doorway at Centennial Commons.

to attend the meetings and other events.

"Students don't have a sense of community here," Connolly contended. "The apartment-style living situations create a very individualistic society. They don't have to interact if they don't want to."

The Commons plans on adding to the community feeling by planning more events in the future that they hope more students will attend.

"We can't do this [student events] only once in a while," Munroe said.

Comanda says that in an additional effort to bring the campus and management together on the same page, the school is starting to bring violators up on Code of Conduct charges.

"Sometimes court doesn't mean anything to people," Comanda said. "This is an additional measure that we can take to hold people more account-

able for their actions."

Comanda, Connolly and Munroe are confident that these measures will continue to help the problems decrease in the future.

As JJC and Centennial Commons prepares for the spring semester, the campus community hopes that things will continue to improve.

As RA Cassandra Calvert puts it, "A lot of people like it, a lot of people don't. It's what you make of it."

Photo by Jim Atlesco

JJC's Mac Lab gets the eMac

By Matt Furlane

If there is any one person in the computer industry that has done more to innovate and spur the competition to better design it's Apple co-founder Steve Jobs. A very astute business man, he has over the last few years, in the midst of a poor economy and angry customers, made Apple Computers attractive, stable, and profitable.

One of the Apple products that epitomizes Steve Jobs ethos, is the elegant and affordable eMac, which can now be found in the JJC Mac Lab located in E-1001.

"Complete and ready to use right out of the box, eMac is the most affordable SuperDrive-equipped Mac ever offered," said Greg Joswiak, Apple's vice president of Hardware Product Marketing. "A brilliant combination of performance and value, it's the ultimate computer for home and schools."

The eMacs in the Mac lab are loaded with plenty of software for students including, Microsoft Office X, Adobe photoshop, software specifically for biology, geography, and math majors, and Netscape Navigator/Internet Explorer for web browsing. According to supervisor Betty Zarske the Academic Computing Department has 267 computers on campus spread out in 5 labs. Of these only 23 are eMacs, which makes the Mac Lab the only place on campus to see these new machines.

Among the many reasons the eMac, which sell for under a \$1,000, is popular the fast PowerPC G4 with Velocity Engine, the same technology featured in some supercomputers. It has a 1GHz PowerPC G4 processor that lets you encode DVDs in real time. The eMac comes with Mac OS X Pan-



The new eMacs power up in the Mac lab located in E-1001. 23 new eMacs are ready to assist students with their studies. The lab is open Monday-Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Photo by Matt Furlane

ther, Apple's operating system that's as stable as a UNIX-based system. Many applications take full advantage of its power and versatility, including Microsoft Office.

"I'm really happy with their speed and stability. We've haven't had a

problem with them crashing at all," states Academic Computing lab assistant Rich Bernil. "The looks are very good. And the amount of space it takes up on the table is much smaller than the older beige G3's. We would like to have them for at least 5 years."

Additionally the eMac the eMac also has a 17-inch flat CRT display that offers 40% more viewing area than a 15-inch CRT.

With a flat screen there is less glare and image distortion than curved CRTs making it easier to work with.

It also comes with 5 different screen resolutions for various applications.

Stop by to see these new machines. The Mac Lab is open Monday, Thursday, from 7:30am to 7p.m. and Friday from 7:30am - 3pm, Sat. 8am to 1pm.

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Drew Duzinkas: student voice

By Kevin Milligan

You may not know this, but Drew Duzinkas is working for you right now.

As the sole student delegate on the board of trustees, Duzinkas is responsible for attending board meetings and workshops, presenting student issues and concerns before the board, as well as offering his own unique perspective on other board matters. He believes this vantage point provides a different angle from other board members.

"Because I don't have any political agendas, my input is unbiased and can be taken more at face value," he said.

His role as "the intermediary between students and the board" is vital in the board's functioning. In essence, Drew Duzinkas is the voice of the students (on the board).

Duzinkas' ascension to his board position was decidedly untraditional. He earned his G.E.D. via the "early-leavers program" at the beginning of

his senior year at Lincoln-Way. The JJC program, designed for 16- to 18-year-old students who have left high school before graduation, allows students to continue their education plans into college.

"The program was for students who have fallen through the cracks of traditional education," he commented as he sat at one of the tables on the JJC bridge.

Since coming to JJC, Duzinkas has established an active presence about campus. In addition to student trustee, he is a tutor in the Academic Skills Center, student groundskeeper for the JJC Road and Grounds Division, and is involved with the Action For Freedom group. Duzinkas is also a representative on the JJC Student Government, a separate position from his board of trustees position. His familiar face and affable manner induces greetings and conversations wherever he may be.

Duzinkas says his involvement with student government was unexpected. His friendship with a former student trustee provoked his curiosity. He was voted onto student government last spring and later decided to campaign on a "tie-dye" platform for student trustee. Duzinkas won by a narrow vote via a two-day online election open to all students, and has been representing the students ever since.

Duzinkas is the eighth member of the board. Because the other board members are publicly-elected officials (and he is elected solely by the student body), Duzinkas doesn't get an actual vote. However, he does have considerable influence on issues at hand. He believes that his understanding and respect for all walks of life and his ability to view issues with an objective eye lends credibility to his advice for the board.

"If you get in and really try to do what you're elected to do, you get more respect," Duzinkas remarked. (Although the student representative doesn't have a vote, the position still has to be taken seriously.) Jim



Drew Duzinkas, the current student trustee serves until April 2004.

Photo by Kevin Milligan

McFarland, a former student trustee in the late 90s, returned (two years) later to be elected to a regular board position.

Duzinkas says his most difficult challenges as student trustee are changing student apathy; dealing with

the lack of awareness on campus; and providing equal representation to every student and group.

His philosophy is that all students need to be represented equally, and diversity should be celebrated in all its forms, not just in specific groups.

Student government raises money for childcare center

By Dave Cummings

The JJC Student Government sold Krispy Kreme donuts to raise money for the kids. On December 1, the Childcare Center received a check for \$671.55 which will be used for new supplies.

Nathan Isaacson, a member of Student Government, said that they were continuing a tradition which was started last year, to set the standard for next year's group.

Student Government tries to provide as much service to the community as possible.

According to Amissa Jones, adviser for student government, sometimes it's difficult to do things off cam-

pus so this was something they could do right here in school.

Isaacson added that it was a chance to work as a team to help others in need.

The Childcare Center was pleased by the student government's efforts to lend a helping hand. Barbara Peterson, one of the teachers at the Childcare Center, will meet with a selection committee composed of the other two teachers to decide what kind of supplies are needed such as new outdoor equipment, pillows and other toys that have been worn out.

The children, who were also asked to voice their opinions, were in favor of buying a horse.

The Blazer returns next semester with our February 4, 2004 issue.

Be sure to get your copy!

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Comfort Zone provides oasis of relaxation

By Kevin Milligan

Come for the food, stay for the calm.

As the weather outside takes a turn straight down south the mercury dial, Student Activities has come up with a solution to the cold weather conundrum: the Comfort Zone.

For about the past two years, starting in October and lasting the duration of the "cold months" until March, Student Services, in conjunction with Food Services, provides a cozy haven on the bridge for evening students to come, enjoy some flavored coffee and soups or chili, and most importantly, unwind.

"This is a stress-free event," said Anissa Jones. Jones is the director of Student Activities at JJC. She got the inspiration for the idea from another institution that implemented a similar program for students, except that it took place during the daytime. Jones said that it just seemed to work better at night here, becoming a nice evening program that really benefits the evening students.

Jones emphasized that Comfort



Laurie Bierman serves up a little cup o' comfort at the JJC Student Activities Comfort Zone

Photo by Fred Housman

Zone's main focus is on the "three R's: Relax, Relate, Regroup." She feels that students should be able to come in, kick back for a little while to break up the hustle and bustle between classes, have something warm and soothing to eat and drink and maybe pick up a good conversation with a fellow student.

Student Activities provides the

different flavored coffees and cider, while Food Services tempts the palate with soup and chili.

"Your student activities dollars at work," Jones said.

Last year the Comfort Zone printed up "Member Cards," that contained the dates of all the meeting times. After the sixth visit, members could receive a free gift. Last year the

gift was a nifty soup mug. Jones said they have not printed up member cards this year, and aren't sure if they will. Member cards are not required to attend the Comfort Zone.

The Comfort Zone takes place on the bridge on alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays, unless it falls on a holiday, from 5:30 to 7:00, or at least until the food runs out, Jones added.

Custodian's attentiveness leads to capture of thief

By Amanda Stofko

As the workers in President J.D. Ross's office packed up their things for the weekend ahead they made sure they had their belongings before leaving.

However, the one vital thing they forgot was to lock the door behind them.

This allowed JJC student John Paul Getto, to enter the office and help himself to more than \$1000 worth of items, making this a felony case.

If convicted, the suspect could face one or more years in prison.

Commander Melvin Cornelius said the suspect was detained around 8:20 p.m. by campus police and admitted to the crime.

He added that while the individual's motive for the robbery remains unclear, the individual has a previous arrest and criminal record.

Cornelius said the police wouldn't have been able to retrieve the stolen property and bring the perpetrator to justice if it hadn't been for the bravery of one person. Second-floor custodian Dorana Musson, a Physical Plant employee, just happened to be working a different shift that night and wasn't afraid to pick up the phone.

"I can't praise her enough for her courage to speak up. We live in a time of retaliation," Cornelius said.

Musson said she didn't have time to think about being afraid at the time, but knew she had to react.

She explained that she knows which people are around during times of the night, such as teachers who regularly leave later in evening.

She became wary when she heard the office door open and saw a person she didn't recognize near Ross's office.

At this point she called campus police, who sent officers Tommy Barnes and Daniel Amisen in response to the call, leading to the arrest of the intruder.

In a situation like this, "You immediately suspect something," Musson said.

For Musson's quick thinking, a ceremony was held in her honor where she received a plaque. She was also awarded a certificate and letter of congratulations.

Musson has been at JJC for almost 14 years.

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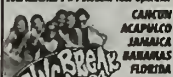
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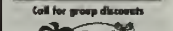
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City Center open house draws praise, big crowds

With more than 150 people in attendance at an Open House at JJC's City Center Campus, a strong foundation has been established for future community outreach programs at the downtown Joliet location.

The event, which took place on November 25, featured a book fair, free refreshments, on-the-spot class registrations, program information and more.

"This was a valuable event because my community really needs more information on the many opportunities that exist at JJC," said student Norma Reyna.

In addition to opening comments by President J.D. Ross and a presentation of the Vet Tech program, participants like Reyna learned about the College's GED, ESL and other DAFS programs.

Students also discovered a vari-

ety of other JJC services and programs by meeting individually with a number of college representatives, including career services director Mary Jo Wolfenberger, JET representative John Nemanich, Associate Vice President Andy Mihelich and Professional Service Director Rowena Klein-Roberts.

"With free movies, food and games, we've blended a lot of fun along with important information about opportunities at the college," said Extended Campus Coordinator Amy Luck.

"This raises our profile in the downtown neighborhood and surrounding areas, which helps JJC meet its mission of service to students."

According to Luck, personal interaction with participants can also reveal other community needs, which creates even more opportunities.

"Rather than simply hanging up a sign with JJC's name and hoping students take classes here, we decide to throw open the doors, invite people in and discuss their needs."

"It's a positive give-and-take that will prove beneficial to the students and the College."

Next on the calendar at City Center is a January Welcome Wagon during the first week of Spring 2004 classes, an event that will be bolstered by the overwhelmingly positive response to the Open House.

City Center's Open House, which was sponsored in part by the JJC Beverage Grant, was coordinated by Pat Adarjanjo, who expresses a genuine "thank you" to everyone who played a part in making the event a success.

For more information about the Open House or about the upcoming Welcome Wagon, call Pat at 280-1551.

JJC POLICE REPORTS



All police reports are copied directly from JJC Police Department records. Not all reports filed are disclosed in the *Blazer*. The names of the innocent have been withheld.

Mon. 11-17 Fire Alarm. Smoke from burning paper in second floor office in the B-Building.

Fri. 11-21 Forgery. A woman subject used a counterfeit \$20 bill to pay for items at the food court in the D Concourse. Marker pen confirmed forgery.

Fri. 11-21 Public Problems. Violation of student code at Centennial Commons. Subject kicking and breaking furniture in apartment.

Fri. 11-21 Domestic Dispute. Argument between roommates in Centennial Commons.

Sat. 11-22 Warrant Arrest. Edward R. Lewis was arrested in Centennial Commons for failure to appear in court for a DUI, on a warrant from Sangamon County. Lewis posted bond and was released.

Mon. 11-24 Criminal Damage to Property. Burn on the men's urinal label and on back of desk in welding classroom.

Tues. 11-25 Property Damage. Centennial Commons roommates reported the door to their apartment was kicked in on 11-24. Authorized by RA on duty to access apartment.

Wed. 11-26 Criminal Trespass to Land. Unwanted subject reported at apartment in Centennial Commons.

Sat. 11-29 Trespass / Arrest. Dante B. Simpson was arrested in Centennial Commons, apartment 433 on a warrant from Will County.

Mon. 12-1 Burglary. Sony Playstation system and ten games, and various other items were reported stolen from Centennial Commons apartment.

Mon. 12-1 Burglary. Radio, DVD player, other items reported stolen from another Centennial Commons apartment.

Wed. 12-3 Possession of Cannabis. Plastic baggy with cannabis residue and rolling papers found in Centennial Commons apartment.

Wed. 12-3 Damage to property. Subject reported to have kicked his own door in, at Centennial Commons apartment.

Thurs. 12-4 Fire Alarm. RA at Centennial Commons reported a fire alarm at 3:18AM. Alarm box was ripped from wall.

Thurs. 12-4 Possession of Cannabis. Subject with drug paraphernalia at Centennial Commons apartment.

Prepared by Brian Delaney

Fall Book Buyback Main Campus—Bookstore

Thursday, December 11th 9:00 am to 6:30 pm

Friday, December 12th 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Saturday, December 13th 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Monday thru Thursday, December 15th to 18th

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Friday, December 19th 9:00 am to 2:00 pm



D/Mall Concourse—Monday thru Thursday
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North Campus—Wednesday, December 17th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

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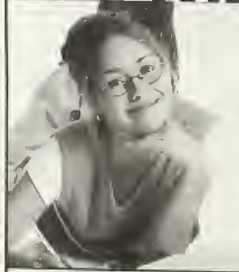
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Culture night celebrates Latin musical heritage

By Rocío Zamudio

On Nov. 21, Latinos Unidos, with the cooperation of Tech Prep and EN-LACE Program, presented La Cultura Musical Latina with performances by JJC student Vanessa Martinez and Chilean singer Nelson Sosa.

Martinez started off the event, holding the audience captive with her beautiful voice. She performed a selection of some of her favorite Spanish songs as well as English ones including "Contigo en la Distancia," a version of a Christina Aguilera song. Although Martinez has been part of the Cinco de Mayo celebrations at JJC and participated and won 1st place at the Grundy County Talent Show, she expressed feeling a little bit nervous since it was her first time performing at the campus theater.

Following Martinez' performance, Sosa took over the stage and invited the audience to a journey to 12 countries in the course of one hour. Sosa, native of Los Andes Chile, has been singing and performing ever since he arrived in the Windy City of Chicago in the early 1970s. He has worked with Old Town School of Folk Music, Urban Gateways, Streets Free Programs and Growing Together Inc.

in Chicago, as well as many other community programs.

Sosa gave the audience a history lecture, but this was no ordinary history class. Sosa's class agenda included having people singing and dancing on stage. From Chile to Mexico, Sosa explored and traced each country's background, letting the audience experience various instruments he brought in with him.

From polka to merengue, from Argentina to Africa, Sosa managed to convert his audience into multicultural spectators.

"I really enjoyed Nelson Sosa's performance because he taught us history through music," said former Latinos Unidos vice-president Nelson Antunez.

Macbeth Cruz, Latinos Unidos president said "The outcomes were better than I expected, I was very pleased." Cruz also commented she hoped the people who came to the show left with more cultural awareness than when they came.

Latinos Unidos thanks cell advisors, Betty Lorch and Hector Lopez for their continuous help and all who supports and appreciate cultural diversity.

Professor Profile: Mike McCraith

McCraith loves the quadratic equation, the Pythagorean theorem, and Spongebob Squarepants

By Kevin Milligan

Yeah, that's right. No fundamental kindergarten editing error here. Say it with me:

Spongebob Squarepants.

"It's just so stupid and funny at the same time," he proclaims, referring to his affinity for the Nickelodeon cartoon, laughing infectiously all the while.

McCraith, a math professor at JUC since 2000, brings his sense of humor, along with an unbridled joy for teaching, into his classroom on a daily basis. Well aware of the stigma that many students attach to math, McCraith battles it by creating a comfortable student environment, often times helping students connect with challenging concepts by using examples that are both humorous and memorable. It's not uncommon for characters like Silly Billy, Dampy Lumpy, Stinky Cheese Man and even Spongebob himself to make appearances in math problems within McCraith's math realm.

"It breaks the tension of math as concrete and boring," he said. "There can be more to it."

Welcome to math, McCraith-style.

The 27-year-old Cleveland-area native recognized his calling at an early age, citing second grade when he knew it would be teaching, and eighth grade when he knew it would be math. Even as a young student, he used to take note of his instructors' various teaching styles, remembering what he liked and didn't to apply as a future teacher himself. He also recalls a game he played with himself as a second grader by taking even and odd numbers and pitting them in "math battles" against each other.

"I did it because it was fun," he reminisced.

McCraith also drew inspiration from another powerful source: His mother. A self-proclaimed mama's boy, he remembers his mom as a simple school janitor before the school she worked for approached her about becoming a teaching aide for the hearing



Professor Mike McCraith's affinity for all things Spongebob demonstrates his fun-loving approach in the classroom.

Photo by Kevin Milligan

impaired students. She learned to sign fluently and made the transition shortly after.

McCraith attended both Lakeland Community College and Cleveland State University to earn his Bachelor's degree in mathematics, then went on to the University of Kentucky to complete his math graduate coursework. He plans to earn an additional degree in web design.

As a professor in the Mathematics dept., McCraith teaches MATH 098, 150 (business calculus), 153 (finite math), 107 (technical math), 135 (trigonometry) and CIS 224.

An artist in his spare time, McCraith gives math a balance of the left brain functions of logic and reasoning with a healthy dose of creative right brain flair. His teaching style reflects his creativity.

"I answer questions with questions in an effort to provoke an active

problem-solving thought process." He says. Likening himself to a "mother hen leading her chicks," he leads his students until they can go do it on their own or "letting them leave the nest," as McCraith puts it. This approach breeds confidence in his students.

"We know mathematics. We just need to know we know," he adds.

McCraith's enthusiasm provides him with immense job satisfaction, and

his students gravitate towards it like a satellite towards a planet. On any given day, he can be found in his office assisting students with homework, or out in the corridor, tutoring students that aren't even in his classes.

"I'll never call it work. Usually work has this derogatory, hard meaning. This is a good gig."

In addition to painting and Spongebob, McCraith enjoys playing

computer games, especially the popular Myst series, frisbee golf and rollerblading.

McCraith is quite popular with the rest of the faculty as well. During the course of the interview, a female colleague pops her head in and starts a lively conversation.

"Isn't he great?" she says smiling. "He's like my big brother."

Mom would be proud, Mike.



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Christmas decorations lighten the spirits around Joliet Junior College



Christmas trees, gingerbread houses and Madrigal singers can be found spreading holiday cheer around the campus this month as JJC students, staff and faculty prepare for the holidays.

Above photos by Adam Farcus.
Madrigal photo by Adam Fox.

FEATURED CLUB:

Independent film makers alliance with local actors leads to new club

By Amanda Stofko

The next Stanley Kubrick may be in our midst at JJC and lingering about at the next Independent Film Makers Alliance with Local Actors on December 10 at 2 p.m. in the Media Center.

At the introductory meeting on November 20, the obligatory ritual of choosing officers led to Rich Zerbian as president and the one responsible for the original idea of the club, Chad Schumacher as vice-president, and Matt Sheehan doubling up his duties as the treasurer and secretary.

After the formalities, the 20 or so members in attendance viewed a short political film presented by Joe Tessone on protests.

Adviser Jeff Fisher said that they aren't critiquing films yet, since many members do not have enough experience in film making, but it's a chance get an idea of what members in the organization have already done on their own. Even those who have works in progress and/or unfinished projects are encouraged to show off.

The important thing, Fisher said, is for students to "get a feel for the camera."

Zerbian said one of his personal goals, which extends to the club as well, is to start using the camera and gain hands-on experience before transferring to an art school to further study filmmaking.

"It's alternative to film classes,"



original sponsor Bobette Wolesensky adds, explaining that some information can't be taught in the classroom and this allows those who are interested in film, a chance to get an idea of what they want to study.

In the future, the group would like to invite professionals and/or people who have experience with the filmmaking process to come speak, relate their personal experiences and provide

some insider tricks of the trade.

By meeting outside professionals and providing a place where directors and actors can meet, Zerbian said the club will also function as a networking tool.

The group will have a chance to flex their filming skills because Zerbian said one of the projects he'd like to do this year would be a documentary following the production of

"Guys and Dolls" at JJC.

He hopes to cover as much as possible, including auditions, set and scenery building and the backstage chaos during show time. If the group is content with the final product, he'd like to enter it in one of the smaller film festivals. Even though the club seems geared towards people with an interest in "anything across the audio and visual spectrum," Zerbian said, this

isn't a limiting factor as to who can join.

Wolesensky agrees.

"It's open to anyone who has an appreciation for the independent film making process," or those who like movies in general.

Zerbian initially came up with the idea after talking to a fellow student whom he went to high school with. Both were interested in making movies, and talked about being able to have a central place to meet for people who were also interested.

Zerbian's interest started to become a reality after he contacted Wolesensky, asking her to sponsor the club. Wolesensky said she saw Zerbian's enthusiasm and wanted to help as much as she could because she strongly believes in student clubs.

Even though Zerbian admits there was a lot of paperwork, getting the club off the ground wasn't "too bad."

He said Wolesensky was a huge help in directing what paperwork was needed, who it needed to go to and when deadlines were approaching.

After the club was formed, Wolesensky asked Fisher to take over the club because she felt the media department would be able to assist better since they already had knowledge of the filmmaking process, access to equipment and the club reflects activities that the department regularly carries out.

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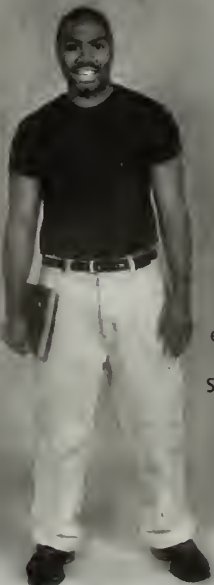
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Billy Bob Thornton plays a boozin', womanizing Father Christmas in director Terry Zwigoff's "Bad Santa."

Photo courtesy Miramax Pictures

Bad Santa follows in the dysfunctional holiday tradition

Cast
Billy Bob Thornton
Tony Cox
Brett Kelly
Lauren Graham
Bernie Mac
John Ritter

Director
Terry Zwigoff

Running Time
93 minutes

Rated R for pervasive language, strong sexual content and some violence

By Matt Sheehan

Holiday films have traditionally been known to give a happy tone. Nothing weird or outrageous or even damn-near insulting. Well, that was during the time of "It's A Wonderful Life" and "Miracle on 34th Street." While these films are certainly enduring classics, today's holiday entertainment has been a bit more... dysfunctional. It all started in the '80s with "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" and "A Christmas Story." The holiday movie season of 2003 is no exception.

"Bad Santa" stars Billy Bob Thornton as Willie, a horny, foul-mouthed con man who dresses up as Santa during the holiday season for shopping malls and, with his "trustworthy" Marcus (Tony Cox), robs them. Then, they get a 10-month long vacation and come back the following November. However, during one certain shopping mall scam Willie meets a boy (newcomer Brett Kelly) who really believes that he is Santa Claus and attaches to him like a leech. The boy follows Willie around, brings him home (which he shares with Granny, played by Cloris Leachman) and lets him stay there and even walks in on Willie getting it on with Sue (the gorgeous Lauren Graham), a bartender with a

Santa fetish. Hey, YOU figure out what I mean. Okay, let's just say she likes the hat.

Anyways, mall manager Bob Chipeska (the late John Ritter) becomes suspicious of Willie and Marcus and asks the mall's head of security Gin (Bernie Mac) to check them out.

Now, I will stop there. That is the set-up. Let me say though that the film is filled with more four-letter words than the mouth of a sailor. But don't let that discourage you—that is, unless you want to take your kids (WARNING: This movie is NOT for ANYONE under the age of 10)—for "Bad Santa" follows in the dysfunctional, holiday tradition as "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" and "A Christmas Story." The late, great Ritter makes the most of his smaller role, providing some hilarious bits, as do Bernie Mac and Tony Cox. Lauren Graham casts aside her goodie-two-shoes image from her WB series "Gilmore Girls" to play, in essence, a Santa slut. But it's Billy Bob Thornton as Willie and Brett Kelly as The Kid who make this worthwhile. Thornton really carries this film well with his cursing and drinking and more cursing, even though he is not the typical leading man (in fact, he's normally a supporting character). Newcomer Kelly helps give the audience a contrast to the hellbound Willie by playing a good-hearted child who, in the end, teaches both Willie and the audience the true meaning of Christmas. And that is what makes this even more worthwhile—its sucker-punches in the balls, then to your heart. When I watched this movie, not only did I cry from laughing so hard—I cried at all the tenderhearted moments, too. "Bad Santa" is certainly a soon-to-be holiday classic, even if this Santa doesn't care if you're being naughty or nice.

Visit Matt's Movies & TV for additional reviews, opinions, polls, and other crap.

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'Strangers with Candy' DVD Review

By Thomas Druggs

After-school specials have developed into a whole new comical and deranged level with the release of the second edition of Comedy Central's *Strangers with Candy* on DVD. The series revolves around Jerri Blank played by Amy Sedaris, a 46-year-old self-described "Boozer, user, and loser," who, after running away from home, takes up prostitution, drug use, and theft. After a short 20-year stint in prison she has decided to re-enroll in high school as a freshman, experiencing all the trials and tribulations that any normal student would at that time.

Along with Jerri, is cast of self-absorbed, neurotic, clueless, and caustic teachers family members and students who, in the worst possible way, aid Jerri in her quest to deal with her post-teenage angst, and societal problems. They include Jerri's English teacher Mr. Noble, played by *The Daily Show's* Stephen Colbert, who has the tendency to interrupt his class sessions with hilariously non-sequitur outbursts at students, including Jerri. There is also Mr. Jellinek, played by Paul Dinello, an egocentric art teacher with no real art talent whatsoever. And, of course, you can't have a parody of every comical after-school special ever broadcasted without the archetypal principal, performed by Greg Kinnear, who plays the character of Principal Blackman, as a deep throated, pompous authoritarian who is all at once oblivious, and keenly aware of how his school is run, and knows who is to blame for any of the mischief done during school hours, which is usually Jerri.

Included in the school mayhem is Jerri's family. Her half brother Derek (Lark Spies) trades aerobic verbal volleys with Jerri. Her step mom, Sara Blank played by Debra Rush, regularly peppers the conversations



'Strangers with Candy' seasons 1 and 2 are now available in DVD boxed sets from Wea Corp. Each set includes two DVDs that span every episode of the two seasons.

Photo courtesy Wea Corp.

she has with her darling 46-year-old step daughter with underhanded insults, and has no problems inferring both subtly and overtly that she wouldn't bat an eyelash if Jerri's picture ended up on the side of a milk carton someday! As for Jerri's loving father (Roberto Gar), he might as well double for a mannequin, because every shot of Guy Blank is a silent freeze frame of a most bizarre pose or facial expression.

What's truly enjoyable about this comedy series is that creators Sedaris, Colbert and Dinello relish in orchestrating demented situations for their characters out of the conventional moral stories of after school specials. Not unlike any bad episode of a very special Blossom, or Full House, or the myriad of "safe for the family" programming, the young attractive main characters deal with seemingly real life situations including anything from

drug use, decisions about sex, or the school bully, and with the help of some concerned faculty member, and family member usually reach a satisfying conclusion at the end of the hour.

Strangers with Candy is the exact antithesis of the moralist genre. Jerri is quite possibly the most unattractive, post-teen main character the series has to offer, with a dreadfully bleak family life rivaling that of the Manson Family. The faculty at the fictional Flat Point High is nothing like the caring model teachers in a conventional after-school special. Instead they are mean, selfish and completely unconcerned with Jerri's well being.

Although at first I didn't like the series because it didn't fit my preconceived ideas a parody, that quickly changed as I allowed the show to grow on me, much like the mustache that grows on Jerri's upper lip!

I was glad the commentary with Sedaris, Colbert, and Dinello gave some insight as to the premise of some of the episodes. They also explained where a lot of their ideas for the series originated from, which was primarily from them working together at Second City in Chicago, and on the HBO television series *Ex 67*.

What's even more enticing about the series is that it is unlike much of what is currently out on TV today. There are so many good-looking, politically correct TV characters, and personalities trying to appease the masses of TV viewers with heart warming stories that it's a breath of fresh air to see a character with nicotine-stained teeth, wrinkled skin and a moral center as twisted as a tree limb. Jerri is not afraid to take advantage of a fellow student or friend if it means she gets popular with the "cool kids". She can blackmail a student, a teacher, her brother, and in the first sign of trouble will resort to bad ways to get out, including offering sex, or whatever drugs she has in her locker, and yet there is a certain innocent quality about her that actually makes her endearing, albeit pathetic. And in this after school special there is no real meaningful heart-felt message being delivered in each episode, except that Jerri is still a "Boozer, user, and a loser" and she's just fine with that.

Strangers with Candy does have some pretty strong language and graphic sexuality, including scenes of Jerri fantasizing, and sexually pursuing both male and female students, and nudity is commonplace. Drug use is also talked about.

So if you can handle that, and you don't have an aversion to ugliness, both physical or otherwise, you will appreciate the twisted humor of the creators, how well each actor plays their part, and you will just get a few laughs from this series as well.

Williams provides Hollywood thrills

By Matt Sheehan

Composer John Williams has provided the world with some of the most recognizable film scores and themes. Whether it's *Star Wars* or *Indiana Jones*, Williams is noted for his film scores and other music.

On Nov. 29, John Williams guest-conducted the Chicago Symphony. After treating the audience to his compositions *Sound the Bells* and *Tribute*, John Williams will perform principal French horn Dale Clevenger to world premiere Williams' Concerto for Horn and Orchestra, commissioned exclusively by the CSO for Clevenger to premiere. Its dancing strings and resounding woodwinds, especially Clevenger's virtuosity, almost told a story.

Following intermission, Williams started with excerpts from *Class Encounters of the Third Kind*, one of his five Academy Award-winning scores. Next came the suite from *JFK* and selections from *Far Away*. Afterward, *Schindler's List*, with its lonely violin, drew a resounding silence from the crowd. Then Williams told a story about when he first saw a mugh out of *Schindler's List* with Spielberg in his private study.

After viewing the film, Williams told Spielberg that he "wasn't the right composer of music for this film," to which Spielberg replied, "I know, but everybody else is dead." The symphony then went right into *E.T.* After stepping off stage, Williams came back to give three encores, including "Across the Stars," the love theme from *Attack of the Clones*.

At last, the symphony jumped into *Star Wars* drawing cheers from the crowd. For his last encore, Williams chose a mediocre finale—the theme to *NBC Nightly News*.

This night was unforgettable for anyone lucky enough to attend.

Book Review

'...Lambshead Pocket Guide' a humorous book to tickle your funny bone

By John Sebastian Ferarri

Are you afflicted with chronic boredom? Have you been unable to find suitable medication for this disorder? Well Night Shade Books has a sure-fire remedy for you. Created by some of the finest names in fiction, side effects make include but are not limited to: Laughter, disgust, paper cuts, and/or bouts of introspective thought.

Edited by Jeff Vandermeer and Mark Roberts, the \$3.95 edition of *The Thackeray T. Lambshead Guide to Eccentric and Discredited Diseases* is a remarkably entertaining anthology.

Formatted like a typical medical guide each entry includes symptoms, remedies, and case histories. Rather than be formulaic the strict construction actually serves enhance the overall content.

Like most great work of humor the "guide" also serves as a scathing commentary on our modern society. The central theme reveals our obsession with health and our willingness to categorize almost anything as a disease. With various other themes and ideas presented over the course of the anthol-

ogy, the guide is a book that can be read on numerous levels.

Perhaps the greatest asset of "the Guide" is the list of authors who contributed. Neil Gaiman, Alan Moore, China Miéville, Michael Moorcock, and a number of other talented authors are all present.

In many ways this book serves to introduce the new guard of Sci-Fi and fantasy to the casual reader.

While often dark and always funny "The Thackeray T. Lambshead Guide to Eccentric and Discredited Diseases" is a very enjoyable read for almost any type reader.

The format allows for the casual reader to peruse various authors at their leisure.

At the same time however, the aficionado will be more than content with the depth of each entry.

If you'll enjoy the fiction found in "The Thackeray T. Lambshead Guide to Eccentric and Discredited Diseases," I would also recommend "American Gods" by Neil Gaiman or "Perdido Street Station" by China Miéville.



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The year in music: something for everyone's tastes in 2003

By Lisa Frieri

2003 has been a crazy year for music. We all remember the infamous Britney/Madonna kiss at the VMAs and the R. Kelly scandal, but all controversy aside, 2003 was filled with music to remember.

ROCK

Rock broadened its horizons in 2003. Goth rock became popular with groups such as Evanescence. Pop punk became the rage with groups like Good Charlotte and Simple Plan. Many already known bands released new albums and some new bands surfaced. Early in the year, Foo Fighters won a Grammy for "One by One" and also released the single, "Times Like These" and "Low."

Evanescence had two huge hits, "Bring Me to Life" and "Going Under," with their current single "My Immortal" gaining momentum.

Trapt was another new band that came onto the scene with the single "Headstrong," which refuses to go away. Santana, who had a hit last year

collaborating with Michelle Branch on "Game of Love," wrote a song with Chad Kroeger of Nickelback, "Why Don't You and I." The record brought in Alex Band of The Calling the song, and it quickly made its way to the top of the charts.

Fountains of Wayne, a band that has been around for many years, has been making waves lately with their poppy song "Stacy's Mom." Maroon 5 is another new band from California. After touring with Sugar Ray and Matchbox 20 earlier in the summer, their song "Harder to Breathe" began to climb the charts.

Indie queen and Chicago native Liz Phair went pop this year and released the single "Why Can't I," garnering massive appeal, surfacing as background music in TV shows in recent months.

Good Charlotte and Simple Plan gave birth to a new generation of punk-influenced music and fashion in 2003. Good Charlotte broke out with their song "Lifestyles of the Rich and

the Famous," and "The Anthem," while Simple Plan charmed with "Addicted" and "Perfect."

British band Coldplay won big at the Grammys this year and had another hit off their 2001 album, "A Rush of Blood to the Head" with "Clocks." 3 Doors Down became synonymous with an anthem with the troops in Iraq with "When I'm Gone." Later in the year, the romantic "Here Without You" rose to top of the charts the charts.

Audioslave, a fusion of Rage Against the Machine and Chris Cornell of Soundgarden had several hits off their debut album, "Show Me How to Live." "I am the Highway" and "Cochise" all climbed to the top of the rock charts.

Jason Mraz brought his quirky style of folk rock to the music scene with his summer smash, "The Remedy (I Won't Worry)."

Matchbox 20 had an enormous year with the song "Unwell" and the recent hit "Bright Lights" is climbing to the top of the charts and was recently

performed at VH1's "Big in 2003."

R&B / RAP

Beckoncé, Sean Paul and Justin Timberlake all had big years in the world of R&B. Sean Paul collaborated with Sean Paul for "Baby Boy" and had a hit of his own with "Get Busy."

Beckoncé also collaborated with Jay-Z for the colossal summer hit, "Crazy in Love." Beckoncé seemed to be everywhere in 2003, not only coming out with an album, but also starring in "The Fighting Temptations."

Justin Timberlake was also all over the place. He started out 2003 with the eerie song and video, "Cry Me a River." "Rock Your Body" soon followed and after, "Senorita." He also had a bit part in the movie, "Where is the Love?" by Black Eye Peas.

R. Kelly, despite being in the news for alleged sex scandals, still had two hits, "Ignition" and "Step in the Name of Love."

Nelly also had a big year, with his song on the "Bad Boys 2" soundtrack,

"Shake Ya Tailfeather" featuring P. Diddy and Murphy Lee.

Newcomer Chingy also had a big year with the songs "Right Thru" and the song, "Hollide In" featuring Ludacris and Snoop Dogg. Snoop Dogg also had a part in the song "Beautiful" along side Pharell from the Negatives.

POP

The American Idols not only had success on the show of the same name, but also in the music charts. Kelly Clarkson came out with her debut album, "Thankful" featuring the single, "Miss Independent."

Second place winner of this year's American Idol, Clay Aiken sang the ballad, "This is the Night." Ruben Studdard, winner of American Idol, also released a single, "Flying Without Wing."

2003 was filled with many crazy moments, but the music is memorable. In memory of Chris Lynch, 1984-2003.

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CD REVIEW

Kings Of Leon's 'Youth' 'immune to the threat of nostalgia'



By John Sebastian Ferrari

As the world rediscovered rock and roll, a legion of bands rose to bask in the glory. It has gotten to the point where the racks have become bloated with a plethora of albums nearly indistinguishable from one another. Most are mindless and formulaic with little or no value to the true music lover.

There are, however, jewels to be found in this musical wasteland. One such jewel would be *Youth and Young Manhood* by Kings of Leon.

Musically, Kings of Leon is a sonically unpretentious blend of 70s Brit rock with a southern soul. While other rock acts strive to be unique, it is obvious that Kings of Leon strive only to be themselves. What they are is a group of men bound by family ties and an intense love for music.

This familial connection is perhaps the key to the band's exceptional sound. Through each track there is a very tangible sense of comfort.

Vocally, front man Caleb Followill

saunters through each lyric as if he is in no particular rush to end the song. Similarly, many of the chords are stretched into the musical equivalent of a southern drawl. The southern infusion adds a richness and depth to the entire album.

Most refreshingly, Kings of Leon does not sound like the incarnation of any certain time period. While other bands become quickly dated, Kings of Leon has a sound that is almost immune to the threat of nostalgia.

It is easy to imagine that *Youth and Young Manhood* will sound as fresh 10 years from now as it does today.

As for singles go, track eight, "Molly Chamebers" is a very strong song but far from the best the album has to offer. Also "Joe's Head" and "Talbina Sky" are adequate representatives of Kings of Leon's talent.

If you are chafing from the endless pop punk/pop rock infested radio, Kings of Leon is your sweet release.

JJC Lady Wolves continue to dominate

By Adam Fox

Coach Tony Giese's goal for this year's team is a mere 15 or 16 wins. After three years on the job as head basketball coach for the JJC Lady Wolves, he is hoping to break 500 for the first time.

Thus far, with just 11 games played, JJC has a record of 5 and 6 overall. Since the JJC Thanksgiving Tournament, which was held on Nov. 28 and 29, JJC has gone on impressive 3 and 1. With the help of sophomore standout Kelly Pero, Giese's team is finally playing like he had hoped they would.

In the first game of the Thanksgiving Tournament versus Morton College, the Lady Wolves squeaked out a victory, 37-35. This dramatic team victory was led by Pero who had 15 points. In the second game of the tournament the Lady Wolves had an easy victory 65-61. Leading the way once again was Pero with 22 points. Also making a very substantial contribution were freshman Melinda Jones and Kathryn Burbank, who both chipped in 11 points. Pero was named Tournament MVP, while Jones was named to the All-Tournament team, a great honor for JJC.

On Dec. 2 the Wolves fought hard with Wilbur Wright College, and gave them the beating of a life time. In this dominating victory freshman forward Jenna Barghahn had

15 points and 7 rebounds, while Pero contributed with 13 points and Julie Schmidt had 10 points and 12 steals. JJC won by the final of 68-26.



Maybe the Lady Wolves put too much in this humiliating victory, because on their next game versus Moraine Valley Community College on Dec 4 the Wolves lost a heartbreaker 56-54.

Leading the way was Jenna

Barghahn who had 19 points, 7 assists and 7 rebounds. Barghahn also went 4-of-5 from three-point land.

With this team unity concept in place, all the players are proving that there is no "I" in the word "TEAM."

Women's Basketball Schedule

December 13

Carthage Valley Community College
Away, 10:30 a.m.

December 18

Illinois Valley Community College
Away, 5:00 p.m.

January 6

South Suburban College
Home, 5:00 p.m.

January 10

Moraine Valley Community College
Home, 5:00 p.m.

January 13

Triton College
Home, 5:00 p.m.

January 15

William Rainey Harper College
Away, 7:00 p.m.

January 20

College of DuPage
Away, 7:00 p.m.

JJC All-Conference Athletes

FOOTBALL

Offensive Line 1st Team
Keith Holden

Offensive Line 2nd Team
Robert Blocker

Wide Receiver 1st Team
Dareon Spencer

Running Back 1st Team
Antoine Bagwell

Defensive Line 1st Team
Rob Ninkovich

Defensive Back 1st Team
Josh Taylor
Gamar Diamond

Defensive Back 2nd Team
Martel Taylor

Linebacker 1st Team
Todd Cowan

Linebacker 2nd Team
Richard Davis
DeSean Davidson

VOLLEYBALL

All Conference 1st Team
Stephanie Hankosky
Shanette Dorscy

All Conference 2nd Team
Ashley Van Waard

All Conference Honorary
Mention
Stacy Yates

All Regional
Stephanie Hankosky
Ashley Van Waard

All Tournament Team
Stacy Yates



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Doing the Fox Trot



Return of the King, or back on the Highway to Hell

By Adam Fox

On Dec. 28, 2001, a savior was delivered to the Chicago Bulls. Former Bulls great Bill Cartwright was appointed head of coach of our beleaguered NBA franchise. At the time Cartwright was taking over for Tim Floyd who had ran with the Bulls for four years and had, to sheer disbelief of many basketball purist, got

But nevertheless, after the debacle of the Tim Floyd era, Cartwright was doing everything and saying everything that he should. He was going to lead the baby big men, Eddy Curry and Tyson Chandler, into the only dominating big men in the Eastern Conference.

As a player, Cartwright, was a slow post, old school center, who could score with the best but also a defensive wizard. And during his reign as head coach his goal was to teach Curry and Chandler how to play like he did, to be that bruising low post player

other teams fear.

But sometimes pools are not met, and the baby Bulls are just that, babies. Expectations were very high this season. For the first time since a guard with the last name Jordan, the Bulls had a decent shot at the playoffs. However, GM John Paxson believed that Cartwright was not the man to lead them to the promised land.

Instead he brought in former Phoenix Suns head coach Scott Skiles to be the newfound hope.

Skiles, who is known around the NBA as a very exonerate coach who demands you to play defense and takes no bull from anyone. Is Skiles the right man for the adolescent Bulls? Or is he just the next move in what has become a conga-line of coaches?

What Skiles demands from all his players is that they play hard and put the team before themselves. And what he does not need is selfish players who do not play defense. So in an attempt by Paxson to rid his team of locker

room cancers like Jalen Rose, Paxson shipped leading scorer Rose and Donyell Marshall to Toronto in exchange for Antonio Davis and Jerome Williams.

Although this may not seem like a blockbuster trade, it is very important for the team. It gives them two defensive minded, athletic role players that know how to win. And it gives Curry and Chandler another tutor in Davis, one they have been searching for since Charles Oakley.

Although this trade with Toronto may have handcuffed the Bulls pay role for future seasons, it will be worth it for the Bulls to finally grow up and realize that they are no longer teenagers.

Let's hope that history will not be the team's guide. Skiles may be the stem influencing force that teaches the Bulls how to be a real team, and not just cellar garbage.

Either that or he will be just another dance move on the way to obscurity.

Athletes of The Issue



Kelly Pero

The Captain for the Lady Wolves basketball Squad and only returning starter has fought an uphill battle with her team. Despite the struggle of being one of only three sophomores, she has persevered to be the leader and offensive powerhouse. In a time frame of five games, Pero has scored 95 points, an average of 19 points per game. This does not include her guiding presence during games, or her lock-down style defense.



David Gullet

This sophomore guard is one of the consistent players for the Wolves this year. In this years Thanksgiving Tournament Gullet, along with Michal Vavrek, and Daron Spencer were named to the All-Tournament Team. Gullet scored 16 points in there game versus St. Xavier University JV. On Dec. 2 game versus Olivet Nazarene JV Gullet added 15 in the easy victory for the Wolves.

Wolves continue manhunt

By Andrew Hruhec

The Wolves have a lot to be thankful for this holiday season. Entering the Kankakee Community College Tournament this weekend, the Wolves currently have a 9-1 record and are ranked fourth in the NJCAA Division III poll.

After the first six games of the season, JJC looked like an unstoppable force, but all good things must come to an end. The Wolves were stunned by a 70-66 loss on Nov. 22 to Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Proving to be a resilient team, JJC righted their wrongs before the JJC Thanksgiving Tournament. The Wolves manhandled St. Xavier JV and defeated them 110-77 to move on to the title game where they played College of Lake County. Behind the play of Tournament MVP Michal Vavrek, the Wolves pounced quickly and ran away with a 101-68 to win the tournament. The Wolves combined for an outstanding 57.4 percent from the field for the tournament.

The wolves continued to roll when they played Olivet Nazarene. Troy Shanks and Earl Hughes provided the bulk of the scoring for the Wolves. Shanks was 7-of-10 from the arch and finished with a team-high 23 points, while Hughes scored 20.

In their second game against Milwaukee Area Technical College, the Wolves avenged their only loss of the season by defeating them 82-68



behind the scoring of freshman Daron Spencer. Spencer connected on 6-of-8 from three-point range and scored a game-high 21 points. Michal Vavrek helped the cause by providing 15 points and 13 rebounds.

The Wolves look to continue their winning ways this weekend in the Kankakee Community College Tournament. With a record of 10 wins and one loss, the Wolves appear to have the makings of a magical season.

Men's Basketball Schedule Upcoming Games

December 12-14
Kankakee C.C.
Tournament
Away, TBA

December 19-20
Kennedy-King College Classic
Away, TBA